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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1908.

HOW WILL ROOSEVELT ANSWER?

There is much curiosity to see how President Roosevelt will deal with the request of the House of Representatives for specific information as to his charge that members of Congress had voted in favor of restricting Federal detectives to work for which they are appointed, lest the detectives should expose members of Congress themselves as guilty of criminal practices.

Though not in the terms of the passage in his message, this statement is the substance and meaning of it. It is clear that the President must present matter in support of his accusation, or apologize for it.

Doubtless he might be able to furnish a vast body of probable, though undecisive, proof in support of his extraordinary statement. For it is believed to be true that where individuals have been engaged in loot of the public resources, members of Congress have, in many cases, used their influence in behalf of their enterprising constituents attempting these operations. It does not follow, of course, that all members of Congress have known that the practices, or the attempts, were unlawful or criminal. That there have been such cases, however, is certain. But the disposition of the Senator or Representative to serve an influential constituent who might have some kind of job to be worked through, would account for much of this effort, without involvement of the member himself in knowledge of any criminal transaction. Secret service agents, however, following clues, on finding that members of Congress had recommended and assisted in fraudulent operations, would be apt to conclude that the members themselves had guilty knowledge, and their superiors in office would lay up such stock of facts and conjectures as might be available for future use of the various departments. It is undoubted that a large stock of information of this description would be available for the use of the President, if he should want it, and a report by him on the various jobs recommended by members of Congress and discovered to be fraudulent or improper, would wake echoes at Washington and in all parts of the country. Of course there would be a rush of explanations from all quarters, with protestations of innocency and lack of knowledge, but the President, nevertheless, could stir a tempest and make it mighty uncomfortable for a lot of members, if he chose.

What course he will take, question is; for he is in position to discover to the country a mighty lot of sensational matter, should he wish to do so, disclosing the attitude of members of Senate and House towards an infinite lot of jobs, more or less shady in character, which, of course, members of Congress are unwilling should be revealed. For, even if they didn't know they were assisting in shady transactions and were only anxious to favor constituents, they would prefer silence and oblivion to publicity and necessity of explanation. No question he has the "stuff," and the "medicine." Will he use it, or will he slur the matter with a statement which Congress—that wants no searching investigation—may be willing to accept and call it explanation and apology?

It is not to be regarded as probable, or possible, that Theodore Roosevelt made a statement so extraordinary, without means to support it; and that members of Congress have constantly aided constituents who were pushing "jobs" of various kinds, for promotion and enhancement of their own fortunes at the expense of the common weal, is certain—whether the Congressman had knowledge of the nature of the graft, or not. But revelation of this whole business, in so far as the secret service has discovered it, would be received gladly by the country. It would "wake up the snakes," and no mistake. The question, then, is of surpassing interest—How will Roosevelt respond? He is nothing if not a fighter, and hitherto anybody and everybody who wanted a fight could get it out of him. This one may be more serious than any yet. But will he quail?

CHERRY—ALFALFA—BARBERRY.

The cherry was not known in Europe in the early time. It was brought into Italy from Persia, Ferrero tells us, by Crassus, about 55 B. C. In America it was a native tree, but the fruit generally was of poor quality. Oregon has the wild cherry in abundance, and in the Umatilla country the fruit was the best ever known in the wild state. It was eagerly eaten by the early immigrants. Excellent results have often been obtained in Oregon by grafting improved varieties upon native stock. The fact that the "choke cherry" of Umatilla was the best wild cherry ever known is worth mention as confirmation of the claim of the Oregon country to the production of the best varieties of the cultivated tree and its fruit.

Alfalfa, the fodder plant, was brought into America from Europe, and Europe got it from Arabia, or Babylonia. We get the word from the Arabic, as we get from the same source such words as algebra, alcohol, alchemy, and many more. The Spaniards brought the seed to the New World. A monograph issued by the Department of Agriculture informs us that alfalfa got into Italy in the first century of our era. "It may briefly be described," says this same document, "as being a deep-rooted long-lived herbaceous forage plant, belonging to the botanical family leguminosae, or pod-bearing plants. It resembles clover, and its chief peculiarity is a tap root often extending fifteen feet or more into the soil. That is why it flourishes in the semi-arid regions of the West; it sinks its root down where moisture may be found." Yet it will not flourish well where the underlying strata are impervious or very hard.

The so-called Oregon grape, which is not of the grape family at all, but is a barberry, flourishes in particular localities in a wild state, but is very intolerant of cultivation. But when its shoots or roots are grafted with their kindred of foreign countries a new stock is obtained which may be cultivated with highest possible effects. The French do this to perfection. The Oregon plant, engrafted with that of France, comes out in new character.

The world is now only at the beginning of these variations of plant life—though the subject is a very old one. Means of communication between the various regions of the earth now afford facilities for improvement of plant life not possible in former times, and it is a general rule that the stock of one country can be greatly improved by admixture with that of another.

THE OREGON BANKS.

The summary of State Bank Examiner Steel's report on the condition of Oregon banks at the close of business November 27 makes an interesting showing. The prosperity of the state is reflected in deposits of nearly $74,000,000 and total resources of $107,000,000. The division of deposits between the state banks and the National banks is close, the 132 state banks being credited with $39,674,348.82 and the sixty-five National banks having to their credit deposits of $34,270,890.89. The statement offers some interesting comparisons with that for the Portland banks taken separately. It shows that of the total of deposits held in all Oregon banks, $47,241,627.41 is held by the banking institutions of Portland.

The banks of this city are also credited with resources amounting to $56,235,993.98, an amount slightly in excess of one-half of those of the remainder of the banks throughout the state. In loans and discounts, the division between Portland and the remainder of the state is remarkably close, the Portland banks reporting this item at $25,640,842.44, while the remaining banks show a total of $25,751,417.28. The total population of the state at this time is difficult to estimate, but it is generally believed that it has reached a figure where the bank deposits will show an average of more than $100 per capita. This figure would, of course, be greatly swollen if the deposits included all of the investments held by the loan and trust organizations, not to mention the hoards which have not yet been taken out of the stockings and teapots into which they were frightened by the panic of last year.

The panic interrupted a large flow of Eastern money which was then coming into the state for investment, and this movement has as yet hardly been resumed. Conditions are steadily improving, however, and the very flattering bank statement just published will undoubtedly be much improved on by its successor a year hence.

HOW THE COLLEGES GROW.

Some trustworthy statistics of university attendance lately published in the New York Evening Post indicate that the center of educational population is moving westward. The largest university is still on the Atlantic Coast, but it is Columbia now, and not Harvard. Yale has gone down to twelfth in the list, several of the state universities being ahead of her. The latter schools are the only ones which seem to have grown much. Minnesota and Wisconsin each gained 400 students last year, while Princeton barely held her own, Yale gained but 31 and Harvard's enrollment actually declined.

In the race for precedence the state universities are not likely to lose ground as the years pass. With the power of taxation to support them and an invincible loyalty to them in the hearts of the people, it would be rash to try to predict where they will stop. Moreover, they have the advantage of looking to the future while the older colleges have their eyes fixed on the past. The spirit of the state university is democratic, scientific, evolutionary. The ancient endowed institution clings to classical tradition and scholastic authority. The one typifies youth, with its boundless courage, the other age, with its timid caution, and America seems to like youth better than age.

SEAL PROTECTION FARCE.

Professor David Starr Jordan, in a communication to The Oregonian, takes exception to comment made by this paper on the manner in which the United States has been buncoed out of the sealing business and the large herds which formerly thronged Pribiloff Islands now driven to other parts of the ocean. Scientists might discover a technical distinction in the different herds in the North Pacific, but the Victoria sealers who have followed these herds from island to island and profited by the protection which the Government has given the San Francisco fur monopoly have failed to note the difference. They only know that disappearance or diminishing of the herds in one part of the ocean is followed by an increase in some other locality. The Oregonian cannot agree with Dr. Jordan that the branding of the seal is not "inhuman" and cruel, and we cannot believe that the seal so branded will hasten back for more of the same treatment.

There is no occasion for Dr. Jordan to rush to the defense of the "San Francisco monopoly," which to a greater degree than any other influence is responsible for the driving of the American sealers to the protection of the British flag. This monopoly is undoubtedly, as Dr. Jordan asserts, "a reputable business house," and "the holding of such a lease offered by the United States to the highest bidder is perfectly open and honorable." Admitting all this to be true, it does not alter the fact that, by spending millions in the past twenty-five years to protect this monopoly, the Government has driven the sealing industry out of the hands of Americans into those of the British and Japanese sealers. No stronger admission of the fact that this policy is wrong is needed than the actual payment by the Government to Canadian sealers of damages to the amount of $425,000 and interest for unlawful seizures of vessels which were interfering with the profits of the monopoly.

One of the most disgraceful acts in connection with this miserable sealing policy has been the refusal of the Government to pay the claims of the American sealers seized at the same time and under the same conditions as those which prevailed when the Canadian sealers were seized. As an example of discrimination against American citizens, protection of a monopoly, injustice and inhumanity, the American Government's sealing policy stands in a class by itself. Viewed from almost any standpoint, the United States will be a distinct gainer when the expensive farce is ended by the clubbing of the last seal and abolishment of the pleasant Summer cruises of the revenue cutters.

EYES VERSUS REASON.

In seeking to discover who robbed the O. R & N. train the other night the authorities have come upon more evidence than they know what to do with. The investigation is suffering from the rare complaint known as an embarrassment of riches. Incarcerated in the City Jail there are two ne'er-do-wells named Johnson and Benson whom the train employes positively identify as the robbers. At the same time Sheriff Stevens holds in durance vile at the County Jail another precious pair, Burke and Hayes by name, one of whom confesses to the robbery with all the plausible circumstances of truth. The dilemma is a strange one. Of course behind it lies a little struggle between the city and county authorities to obtain the reward for apprehending the robbers, but this could not of itself create the clash of evidence. To show how genuine this clash is let us fix our minds for a moment or two on Engineer Donlon. He was detained in his cab for an hour and a quarter by one of the robbers whose features and garments he had ample time and opportunity to observe.

Before seeing the prisoners at the jail, Donlon described the clothes the robbers wore on Thursday night, and we are given to understand that Johnson's and Benson's garments corresponded to his description. This is very powerful evidence. It becomes still more convincing when we notice that it goes into minute particulars, even down to a crack across the toe of one of the prisoners' shoes. So much for Engineer Donlon's memory of faces and clothing. We come now to his memory of conversation. On last Tuesday night he was confronted with Burke at the County Jail. Burke had confessed to the robbery and evidence was needed to corroborate his confession. Hence he was set face to face with Donlon who had already declared Johnson and Benson in the City Jail to be the robbers. At first the engineer's memory declined to contradict itself. He failed to recognize Burke, but the latter presently brought to bear upon him a process of proof to which even the most obstinate intelligence must yield.

It was the process by which believers in spiritism attempt to identify the personality of departed souls, namely the recital of circumstances which could by no possibility be known to anybody but Burke and Donlon. Burke claims to have been the robber who guarded Donlon in the cab so that for a long time they two were alone together and what they there said to each other must be confined to their own knowledge. If now Burke could recite to Donlon sentences which Donlon admitted that they interchanged during that time, how could its evidential power be rejected? It would not merely raise a presumption that Burke was the man who guarded Donlon in the cab, it would demonstrate that he was. The proof of the Pythagorean Theorem in geometry would be no more convincing. If the alleged spirit of a dead man comes back from the evergreen shore and tells Philip of circumstances which were known to the departed and Philip, and to nobody else in earth or heaven, then Philip, if he is a rational man, necessarily believes that the alleged spirit is what he claims to be, unless indeed he escapes by way of telepathy.

Now, that is the feat which Burke accomplished. He recalled to Donlon a conversation they had in the cab which Donlon had momentarily forgotten, a circumstance which excludes the hypothesis of telepathy. How could Burke possibly know of this conversation unless he was actually in the cab as he claimed to be? Evidently there was no other way for him to know and therefore Donlon threw overboard the testimony of his eyes, to which he had trusted in identifying the prisoners in the City Jail, and surrendered to his reason. He admitted that Burke was the man who kept guard over him. Other members of the train crew were convinced by the same process. Fireman Bon, for example, could not recognize Burke at first, though he must have had a good view of him on the night of the robbery; but Burke applied the same wrench to his memory that he had used upon Donlon. "Don't you remember that I asked you for a match at such and such a moment?" Yes, Bon remembered and the trick was done. He had to admit that Burke was the man he claimed to be. Indeed who could have avoided the admission under such extreme pressure of logic?

Whether Donlon and Bon will not discover reasons later on for again revising their recollections of the robbers, we can not of course pretend to say. Our point now is that they ought not to be held up to obloquy and derision for trusting to their reason rather than to their senses. Their eyes tell them that the men in the City Jail are the robbers. Their reason tells them that Burke and Hayes in the County Jail are the men. In discrediting the former and relying upon the latter they follow the process which has elevated the human race from barbarism to civilization. Much as we boast of the credibility of our senses we rarely trust them when they conflict with reason even slightly. In this case the conflict is as complete as it is between our eyes and our brains in regard to the motion of the sun. The eyes say it goes round the earth. The brain says it does not. We decide the dispute by believing the brain just as Donlon does in his dilemma.

IS CHEAP LUMBER POSSIBLE?

Edward Hines, president of the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber Company, which a Chicago dispatch pronounces "the largest combine in the world of its kind," is predicting cheap lumber, which, he asserts, will be obtained through cheapening the cost of manufacture by other methods than "at the expense of the country by reckless or wasteful lumbering methods." Mr. Hines gives a number of details of the new plans on which his firm will bring about this remarkably pleasing condition. Among other improvements in methods, he says, "we will utilize all the timber on the ground we cut over. We will not simply pick out the choice trees, leaving dead wood and brush to feed forest fires. We will clear the land so that, instead of being a worthless wilderness after it is cut over, it will be available for farming purposes."

While the consuming public has become somewhat skeptical about any "largest combine in the world" making any radical reduction in the cost of any commodity it may have for sale, it will await results of this new method of lumbering with interest, and probably with no great degree of confidence in its success. The "base" for cheap lumber is cheap stumpage. It is only where stumpage is very high priced that there will be any economic advantage in utilizing "all the timber on the ground we cut over." Whenever stumpage advances to a point where there is a profit in this kind of economy, the price of lumber will advance in keeping. Mr. Hines' proposed system for clearing the land as he proceeds is also a plan that has its drawbacks. The professional logger, whether he handles an axe and saw or is a hooktender or swamper, is somewhat out of his element in preparing land for cultivation as a part of his work of logging.

The men who clear land in the timbered portion of this country can be secured at wages fully 50 per cent less than those paid professional loggers. It is accordingly obvious that cheaper lumber cannot be secured by figuring in on its cost the labor of high-priced men who are part of the time engaged in low-priced work. If these loggers are not employed in clearing the land as they remove the timber, others must be secured. In either case the cost of the clearing will have no direct bearing on the price of lumber.

Removal of the duty on lumber may temporarily make the Canadian product cheaper than that which is obtainable from American mills, but the rapid depletion of our forest wealth on both sides of the Canadian line and the enormous increase in consumption of lumber preclude any possibility of lumber ever again selling to the consumer at prices much, if any, lower than those now prevailing. The end of the stumpage supply is in sight; it is plainly visible to all timbermen and lumbermen. For that reason there will not be any serious cutting of prices of a commodity whose supply is so near exhausted, with no means for replenishing it.

The Providence which watches over fools and not infrequently extends its jurisdiction to the ranks of criminals was "on the job" yesterday, and as a result another fool with the ready revolver is in jail with only a minor charge against him, instead of being a murderer. The offense of ordering a man to move on and resenting an insult by thrashing the offender is not one that justifies murder. Had Mr. Seeber succeeded in his intentions, he would have had difficulty in pleading the "unwritten law" or even "dementia Americana" for his actions. The incident, coming at this time, when murders and attempted murders have been unusually numerous, offers further evidence of the necessity of a law prohibiting the indiscriminate carrying of firearms by irresponsible idiots who are unable to control their tempers.

Wall street has a report that Andrew Carnegie is associated with Mr. Schwab in the Bethlehem Steel Company. This seems hardly probable, in view of the recently expressed views of the Laird of Skibo on the possibility of making radical reductions in the price of steel without any immediate danger of driving the manufacturing concerns into bankruptcy. There is, of course, the possibility that Andrew has signally failed by the library process in getting rid of his money as rapidly as it accumulates. The new method would, of course, be less spectacular than the library system of distributing the mammoth fortune that has been wrung from American consumers, but the plan is not without its merits, and if Andrew will practice as he preaches, his return to the trade will be welcomed.

It is pretty late in the season to be again advising Christmas shoppers to begin early in their search for presents. As there is an entire day in which to finish the performance, it might not be out of place, however, to urge on those who have not yet made their selections, that, while it is too late to begin early in the season, there is still time to begin early in the day. This will make the strain of the final crush easier on this buying public and also on the tired, overworked clerks who attend, or endeavor to attend, to their wants.

A Philadelphia dispatch says that Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware are buried in a blanket of snow from six inches to a foot in depth. The dispatch concludes with the comforting news that "an old-fashioned white Christmas is assured." Out here in Oregon we are enjoying one of those mild Winter rains which brings the bloom of youth to the aged cheek and also assures us of an "old-fashioned Christmas" whose charms will not be marred by that ghostly cold whiteness that a snow storm spreads over the earth.

It is a mystery why Senator Platt, of New York, should think anybody wishes to read his memoirs. He never did anything worth hearing or did anything worth recording. Now that he is all dead but his vanity, he takes up the incredibly useless task of writing his memoirs. The book may inadvertently tell something interesting about other men. If it does it will have one redeeming feature. It is not likely to have more than one.

When it comes to trust-busting, Attorney-General Hadley, of Missouri, takes the cake. His record of three "busted" in one day beats anything in that line ever done before, and the wonder of his feat becomes greater when we remember that they were all Standard Oil "subsidiary corporations." Given a prosecutor and a court who are in earnest and the trusts prove as vulnerable as other criminals.

Every time a jury sets free, or fails to hang, a murderer, it furnishes an excuse for other murderers. Does any one think that, if every murderer were promptly punished, there would be so many homicides by half as there are in the United States?

It's a little tough to be accused of trainrobbery and then to have to make a long argument showing that you are the robber. But we are a mighty skeptical people. We don't like the idea of jailing such romantic heroes as trainrobbers.

Hon. Sam Gompers' great desire to make a martyr of himself is in a fair way to be realized. But twelve months in jail may seem longer in reality than in anticipation.

What has become of that great scheme of all smokers to boycott the streetcars by walking? Why don't they do it? They can thus solve the whole problem.

How would an injunction do, Mr. Gompers, to restrain the court from carrying that jail sentence into effect?

LOAN PORTLAND LIBERTY BELL.

Philadelphia Newspaper Strongly Urges Sending of the Patriotic Symbol.

North American.

The North American would be the last to advocate a yielding to every request for the Liberty Bell to be sent hither and yon as a sort of sideshow attraction for unimportant local celebrations. But there has come a plea for its presence from across the continent which we think should be heeded.

Since the time when Seward was called "the fool of a century" for paying a few millions to Russia for Alaska, then deemed a barren, icy, worthless wilderness, there has grown a wonder city beside a harbor in which all the navies of the earth might lie in snug anchorage. And through the splendidly typical American City of Seattle there passes every year the golden harvest of Alaska, a thousandfold greater annually than the cost to America for all that territory.

And all the while, southward of Seattle, Portland has been growing—in size and stability worthy the name Eastern tourists give to it—"the Philadelphia of the West." Near the Columbia River, whose pure flood makes the Mississippi ugly and the Hudson petty and unimpressive, with snow-capped mountains in sight of the city's streets, with every home the center of a garden, bowered with every variety of bloom, Portland is as proud of its beauty as it is of its commercial strength and conservatism, and, above all, of its Americanism.

Those two cities are to celebrate their arrival at full stature among American cities. Next Summer they invite Americans who know only the East and Europe to look upon our West. And, therefore, we think that this plea which comes to Philadelphia deserves the most respectful and friendly consideration:

To His Honor, the Mayor, the Select Council and the Common Council, Philadelphia, Pa.—Gentlemen: The Portland Rose Festival and the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of Seattle are extremely anxious to have the dear old Liberty Bell brought to the Pacific Coast in June, 1909. This sacred memorial, whose thrilling tones inspired our forefathers, has never visited the great golden West. We feel that it would prove a valuable educator to our rising generation and inspire them with the patriotism that proves a sheet anchor to the windward and a bulwark to our civil and religious liberty.

If you, honorable gentlemen, will pass an ordinance making it possible for us to secure the presence of the Liberty Bell, we will send a guard of safety to meet the bell and its guard of honor at the state line and watch over it carefully until it has passed out of our state confines.

Already the Mayors of hundreds of cities and towns along the possible routes the bell might travel have volunteered to give the venerable and worshipful relic a welcome worthy of its importance. Tens of thousands of school children would greet the bell and smother it with flowers as they sang patriotic songs in commemoration.

In the event of a visit by the Liberty Bell, we assure you that progress through the land will be the march of a conquering hero triumphant in a great and noble cause. With the sincere hope that you may grant our request, we have the honor to subscribe ourself, yours very sincerely.

THE PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL.

We can conceive of no more inspiring lesson in patriotism than would be provided by that jealously guarded journey of the bell from the Delaware to Puget Sound and the Columbia.

It is wise and proper to keep that National relic from becoming a cheapened, ever-traveling trinket. It should never leave its shrine save upon rare occasions of real National significance.

But that journey across the continent is one of those occasions. Past the prairies where no white man had faced the Indians when its last peal sounded; past the splendid fertile states that once were "the great American desert;" over the Rockies, then unknown, and over the Sierras, which only the Spanish adventurers had seen, let the bell travel, guarded in honor, to the lands for which our fathers once were ready to fight the strongest power on earth over a disputed degree of latitude.

Let those new generations of strong Americans see for once the sacred thing which to them is but a name. Among tens of thousands a reverence will be inspired and a sentiment inculcated more deep than we of the East can conceive, grown careless as we have through acquaintance through generations with the concrete reminders of the Nation's birth.

The fostering of that spirit is a need of the Nation now. Purely sentimental as the results would be, the whole country would find ultimate profit in the sending of the Liberty Bell to those Pacific cities.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO EUROPE.

Millions in Small Sums Sent by Money Orders from New York

New York Special, December 18.

Postmaster Morgan gave out today the following figures for the outgoing money-order mails for December 2 to December 12, inclusive:

	Number.	Amounts.
Dec. 2, Campania	14,461	$ 327,230
Dec. 5, La Lorraine	9,676	209,353
Dec. 5, New York	36,593	735,799
Dec. 8, Kaiser Wilhelm	55,035	808,216
Dec. 9, Majestic	18,038	325,898
Dec. 10, La Touraine	15,826	265,177
Dec. 12, St. Louis	67,309	841,856
Totals	216,853	$3,513,949

The figures show an increase of 39,696 in money-order transactions over the period from December 3 to December 12, inclusive, in 1907, and an increase in money transmitted of $103,588.57. The daily average increase is 2308 orders.

Added to these figures is the consignment of foreign money orders carried abroad by the Lusitania on December 16, numbering 116,022 orders, and amounting to $1,526,799.94, making a grand total to date of 432,875 orders and $5,040,629.21.

The total amounts of money for each country represented by money orders are given in the following list:

Great Britain	$888,408
Italy	788,305
Sweden	340,364
Austria	323,925
Germany	299,312
Hungary	202,932
Russia	199,173
Greece	108,116
France	46,219

Election of Senator.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The election of a United States Senator by the people is contrary to the Constitution of the United States.

The election of members of the Legislature to follow blindly the choice of the people expressed at an election is an election of United States Senator by the people—a subversion of the Constitution of the United States and treason, just as secession was.

The member of the Legislature who votes for United States Senator by reason of the direction of the people or his promise to them to follow that direction violates the oath he takes to support the Constitution of the United States and is a perjurer.

ELLIS G. HUGHES.

The Difference.

From the Washington Post.

Charles M. Schwab wants the duty kept on steel and Andrew Carnegie wants it taken off. You see, Mr. Schwab is in the steel business and Mr. Carnegie is out of it.

WHERE IS THE AUDUBON SOCIETY?

No Protest Heard Against Prevailing Modes in Millinery.

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—In a promenade about the city streets at this season of the year, a merely superficial observer could not fail to note that, out of every 50 women he might chance to meet, 49 were wearing on their heads some part of a slaughtered bird's anatomy.

In view of this fact, I have waited for some time to see a protest from the Audubon Society, but have concluded, from the absence of any public criticism of prevailing modes in millinery, that the society has simply closed up its doors in despair and gone completely out of existence.

Although I am not a member of the Audubon Society and have a very careless interest in birds, beyond listening to an occasional song or admiring a pretty plumage, if I were the owner of one of those hats which appear to be composed of an entire bird, minus its song and soul, I would be ashamed to look that bird in the eye, glass though the eye might be, as I took it from its paper cage to adorn my murderous brow.

But what is one to do? Fashion decrees it and most women would as soon give up their religious creed as to breathe defiance at fashion's mandates.

If one accosts the majestic personage invariably found where millinery is sold and in awestruck tones beseeches the consideration of birdless hat trimming, with what merciless indifference or pitying commiseration is one met by that august individual.

Women have been repeatedly told of the cruelties practiced in the slaughtering of many of these beautiful birds, and yet it seems to me that the game-hogs' brutish sensibilities are nothing compared to the sublime indifference displayed by some sweet-faced, motherly-looking little woman who shamelessly wears the plumage torn from live, suffering birds, or mother-birds killed and taken from their young when mother care is absolutely necessary to the preservation of their helpless lives.

The only plumage I have cared to wear is the ostrich feather, and I may yet become convinced that this practice is incompatible with my convictions. Having witnessed many times the plucking of ostriches in Southern California, I have been unable to see that there was any special cruelty attached, though I have no doubt the sensation experienced by the ostrich might be much like we would feel in having a deep-rooted molar drawn. But after the ostrich is plucked and the bag taken from its head, it looks as lively and aggressive as ever, and one watches the plucking with much the same feeling that is aroused by the sight of one of the big birds voluntarily drawing a good-sized orange in tortuous curves down its lanky neck.

Therefore, let us return to the gay bouquets worn last Winter in lieu of hats, huge in size and glaring in color as they often were, but affording a decent employment to hundreds of workers, rather than condone the wholesale slaughter of the innocents, furnishing occupation to ruthless men who ought really to be punished for their many crimes committed against "birddom" in Fashion's name.

V. T.

ROOSEVELT WILL RESPOND

And He Will Be "Namin' of Names," Too.

Reports from Washington fully indicate that President Roosevelt is not "lying down" before the challenge of the House of Representatives. On the contrary, he has accepted it. A Washington special of December 20 gives the following statement:

Today the President started the compilation of a mass of evidence which he will submit to Congress in support of his statement that changes in the secret service law were made because certain Congressmen feared investigation by the Government detectives.

At the White House but one statement was made aside from the announcement that he was preparing the message. It came from a Cabinet member who remarked, smilingly, "He laughs best who laughs last." This was taken to indicate that the President does not consider that he will have the worst of it when the incident finally is closed.

It is said that the President will produce affidavits to the effect that certain Congressmen said exactly what he contended they thought, and he will give their names. He will further show by affidavits that some of them needed investigation, and he will give their names, too.

In preparing his answer to the Perkins resolution he will have such an amount of information that he will not have the message ready before January 3. If the Senate passes a similar resolution he will take up their case in a similar manner. The President seemed confident today that he would be able to prove to the satisfaction of the general public that he had not overstated the situation in his now famous message.

FOR A GRADUATED INCOME TAX

Would Be Just and Equitable and Would Help to Solve a Problem.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Your recent editorial concerning a possible deficit in the Federal Treasury, it seems to me, states the case well. I especially approve your statement that if the tariff, after proper revision, shall fail to provide sufficient revenue for the Government expenses, then recourse should be had to the Federal income tax.

Benjamin Harrison, a short time before his death, in a speech at Chicago, made the statement that the question of taxation was the greatest question before the American people. I believe he was right, for the reason that this question involves the solution of so many other vital questions now before us. For instance, it very properly includes the equitable distribution of wealth, which in logical sequence includes matters of social purity and public hygiene.

It seems to me, after much thought and study of the matter, that a graduated income tax, while not being a panacea by any means, would be just and equitable, and would help very largely in solving some of our most difficult problems. In this connection, may I ask why should not The Oregonian and other leading newspapers take up this question and give it a thorough discussion? It seems to me to be of vital interest.

EDGAR M. SWAN

A Present for Little Boy Blue.

Our Neighbor, he calls me his Little Boy Blue
Whenever he goes by our yard;
And he says, "good morning," or "how do you do?"
But sometimes he winks awful hard.
I guess he don't know what my name really is,
Or else he forgot, if he knew;
And my! You would think I am really part his—
He calls me his Little Boy Blue!

Our Neighbor, he told me that Little Boy Blue
Once stood all his toys in a row,
And said: "Now don't go till I come back for you"—
But that was a long time ago.
And one time, at Christmas, when I had a tree,
He brought me a sled, all brand-new
And smiled when he said it was partly for me
And partly for Little Boy Blue.

Our Neighbor, he's not going to have any tree,
So he says the best he can do
Is try to get something to partly give me
And partly give Little Boy Blue.
Because, if he's here, it would make him so glad,
And he said he knew it was true
That ever and ever so many folks had
A boy just like Little Boy Blue.

Our Neighbor, he calls me his Little Boy Blue,
And said he would like to help trim
Our tree when it came—he would feel that he knew
It was partly for me and for him.
He said he would fix it with lights and wax flowers,
With popcorn and berries—you see,
He'd like to come over and help to trim ours—
He's not going to have any tree!

J. W. FOLEY.

DR. JORDAN ON SEAL HUNTING.

Defends the Monopoly, and Says No Inhumanity Is Practiced.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Cal., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—A note in The Oregonian for December 16 concerning the fur seal herd of the Antarctic contains more incorrect statements than I have ever seen in this excellent paper before.

The fur seal has never been driven from rookery to rookery, from one breeding ground to another, and cannot be so driven.

The Antarctic rookeries belong to a distinct genus, Arctocephalus, as different from the genus Callorhinus of the Bering Sea rookeries as sheep is from goat. These rookeries were once populous but their destruction, now quite general, was brought about by indiscriminate slaughter, the same sort that has reduced the herds of Bering Sea from 2,000,000 animals in 1872 to perhaps 200,000 in 1908.

In Bering Sea the seals of the Pribilof Islands are of a different species from those of the Commander Islands belonging to Russia; and these in turn are diferent from the herd on Robben Island, which now belongs to Japan. The three herds are distinct and they do not commingle.

The statements regarding the harassing of the herd by revenue cutters and the like are a fabrication pure and simple, and the few female pups branded some years ago as an experiment have disturbed the herd no more than the taking of an occasional egg from the hen roost would discourage a yard full of hens.

The San Francisco monopoly referred to in this note is a reputable business house which, as the highest bidder in the open market secured the right to take the skins of the surplus young males on the Pribilof Islands at a lease price of $10 per skin, undertaking at the same time to support the natives living on the islands and carrying out the operations of the seal industry. The holding of such a lease, offered by the United States to the highest bidder, is perfectly open and honorable.

As to the "inhumanities" said to be practiced by the lessees on the islands, they do not exist. The conference of fur seal experts in 1897, composed of representatives of Great Britain, Canada and the United States, reported that the "methods of driving and killing practiced on the islands . . . call for no criticism or objection, . . . and are conducted skilfully and without inhumanity." It may be added that they have been in force for over a century without affecting the return of the breeding seals.

DAVID S. JORDAN,
Once Commissioner in Charge for Fur Seal Investigation.

DR. PANTON REJOINS.

Disputes Dr. Josephi on a Question of Fact.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Dr. Josephi in his vituperative dissertation of last Sunday, tries to distract attention from the real points at issue, by claiming that I had made a violent personal attack upon him, which is not the case, as can be seen by anybody who will take the trouble to review my letter published by you December 13, which was a plain statement of facts accompanied by proofs. The Dean evades these points and says, endeavoring to explain his failure to have replied long since to a paper which I read before our State Medical Society last July, in which I denounced the bad work which had been done by our local medical schools:

"I was not present when the paper was read or discussed, and have never deemed it of sufficient importance to read since its publication."

The fact is, however, that he was there, and attracted the special attention of the society's members as seated in the main aisle directly before the president's chair, he listened most attentively to what I had to say. I noticed him particularly, and have other witnesses whose testimony cannot be impeached who will aver that they saw Dr. Josephi seated facing me and taking in every word of my paper. Does not this indicate his general accuracy? Is it credible that if he had not heard my paper, he would not have made haste to read it, as it concerned him and his school most vitally?

The facts which I have regretfully stated are indisputable. It was not my wish or intention to enter into a newspaper discussion of these matters, and my first letter was in reply to one of Dr. Josephi's published in your columns December 10, containing statements derogatory to me.

A. C. PANTON.

In the Independent, Too!

Bryan's Commoner.

In a story relating to the new Secretary of the Treasury, the Independent (New York) prints this tale:

"During the Kaiser's visit to England, an enthusiastic German was dilating to an English prelate on the extraordinary qualities of his Emperor. He frequently interrupted himself with the sigh of admiration:

"'Ah, but the Kaiser is great!'

"'At last the wearied prelate replied:

"'But God is greater!'

"'So he is,' said the German. 'But you must remember, the Kaiser is young yet!'"

Can it be that the memory of the editor of the Independent is failing? How could he have permitted such a hoary old chestnut as this to be palmed off upon his exact and exacting publication? Does he not know that this story was familiar to every printing-office "devil" more than 30 years ago? Then the story was given in describing a dialogue between two South Carolina negroes who were discussing the merits of Robert Smalls, a member of Congress.

It is a good story, however, and perhaps grows better with the years.

This Is the Simple Business.

Eugene Register.

If we are to have a Democratic United States Senator, why all this fuss among the Republican Legislators as to whom shall be greatest in the kingdom of Democratic politics. Why not let the Democrats organize both houses, put their leaders in the seats of the mighty and proclaim to the world that through the folly of Oregon Republicanism the state has been turned over to Democracy with the understanding that, politically, they can conduct it as wisely and successfully as have the Republicans and forthwith proclaim Chamberlain as Senator-elect and hand out whatever of political plums they have for distribution. Until Oregon Republicanism gets wise, it might be just as well for it to "go way back and sit down."

British Old-Age Pensions.

From the London Outlook.

Ireland has always contributed more than its due share to the humors as well as the worries of Parliamentary proceedings; but it eclipsed itself on Monday night when Mr. Lloyd-George made a statement as to the claims so far made for old-age pensions in different parts of the kingdom. While in England only 367,197 persons out of 893,000 over 70 years of age have claimed pensions, in Wales 23,988 out of 59,000, and in Scotland 68,785 out of 134,000, it appears that in Ireland no fewer than 193,138 persons have put in claims, although there are only 184,000 persons known to be living over 70 years of age.

About Husband-Hunting.

Atchison Globe.

Advice to women: A man doesn't amount to much, at best. In getting one, get the best one possible.