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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1908.

BRYAN AND GOMPERS.

It will be observed, in fact it has been observed, by all readers of the current news, that the Honorable William Jennings Bryan is extremely diplomatic and non-committal on the court decision against the officials of the American Federation of Labor at Washington. Through experience, and through accumulation of modest, yet sufficient riches, Mr. Bryan is tending towards the ripeness of conservatism. He doesn't rage and roar and madden round the land against the decision, as he would have done erstwhile. In his message to Gompers he simply says: "Sorry to read the decision. You did right to test the law. Glad you are taking appeal." Call you that backing your friends? A plague upon such backing! But the election is just now past. Hence Bryan's meager, mincing and meticulous expression.

Hence, also, the whole Bryan press of the United States is mute. 'Tis long till next voting time, and thunder let loose now would cease to reverberate a mighty while before the next opportunity to render it available. Besides, it is likely that the Democratic party will now see-saw to its conservative side. Some candidate of the Parker stamp will be the heavy figure on its teeter-board next time.

Time was when the spokesmen of the party would have risen en masse to denounce this decision, and Bryan would have been hailed afresh as the peerless leader. But it begins to occur to these politicians that the country regards it as a man's lawful and proper right to have protection for his business and property against conspiracies to destroy them. Injunction as a remedy for such wrongs will not be set aside, but to a reasonable extent will be enforced. The country has pronounced an emphatic decision on this subject; and Bryan and his party have been so chastened by the affliction of defeat, they raise but a feeble outcry, and such sound as they begin dies on their gasping lips.

But injunction is not to be abused. It will settle to the reasonable principles appropriately defined in Taft's court opinions and other deliverances. Even Bryan was forced to admit, during the recent campaign, that there was no intention to abolish the injunction as a remedy or restraint against violence and wrong. He dodged, moreover, the claim or assumption that, in the interest of the working classes "no right to carry on business of any particular kind, or at any particular place, or at all, shall be held, considered or treated as property, or as constituting a property right." Herein lies the issue between Gompers and his associates, on the one hand, and the Buck Range and Stove Company on the other, which forms the subject of the decision at Washington. During the campaign Bryan hesitated to affirm the Gompers doctrine. Had he boldly affirmed it, there is every probability that the majorities against him would have been far greater than they were. The right to do business is to be protected by law. Gompers is in difficulty because he has denied it.

WATERWAYS AND COMMERCE.

News dispatches in yesterday's Oregonian contained extended reference to two very important waterway projects in the Pacific Northwest. One of these was the deepening of the Chehalis River so that ocean-going lumber carriers could get in and out of Montesano. The other referred to an expected appropriation by the Idaho Legislature of $20,000 to be used for the improvement of the Upper Snake River above Lewiston. Waterway projects of this nature possess an intrinsic merit which entitle them to every consideration possible. The ocean carrier is the most economical means of transportation known, and every additional mile that it can be taken inland by waterway improvement means a saving to the producers of the country. The Grays Harbor project calls for the removal of 72,000 cubic yards of dirt, and at an estimated maximum cost of $50,000, it is believed that a depth of seven feet at low water and 15½ feet at high water could be secured.

This depth, by working the tides, is ample for the average coasting schooners engaged in the lumber trade, and would afford facilities for the economical marketing of a large amount of timber and timber products which are naturally tributary to Montesano.

Equally meritorious, but for a different reason, is the Idaho project. The Upper Snake country above Lewiston, is practically inaccessible except by pack horse, and by reason of this inaccessibility a region of great possibilities in mining, agriculture and fruit growing, is lying dormant and undeveloped. Eventually a railroad will penetrate that field, but the date of its appearance is uncertain, and, as it has been demonstrated that river improvements are perfectly feasible, the improvement project is entitled to hearty support. In such isolated regions as the Upper Snake, the matter of service always takes precedence over the matter of rates, for the reason that the industrial efforts of man in that locality will bring no returns until a steamboat or rail line affords some means of transportation.

The State of Washington has repeatedly demonstrated that but little difficulty is encountered in reducing freight rates after the railroads are built. This obviates the immediate necessity of spending for improvements on routes already well supplied with transportation money that is needed where there is at present neither rail nor water transportation. If the appeals made for aid in waterway improvement were put forward in the order of their merit, and not for the purpose of furthering private interests, Portland would not today be obliged to spend $500,000 per year for river improvement which benefits the entire Northwest, and such meritorious projects as that for the Upper Snake, for Grays Harbor, Tillamook and a number of other similar undertakings would never be sidetracked or lost in the shuffle.

THE FLOWER AND SEED.

The San Francisco Bulletin now puts up the complaint that the primary law proposed in California requires the candidate for a party nomination to be a member of the party from which he seeks the nomination. "What reason," the Bulletin asks, "is there for requiring that an aspirant for a nomination should be a member of the party whose nomination he seeks? Why should not a Republican be at liberty to seek a Democratic nomination or a Democrat a Republican nomination?"

This is the climax. Here is the primary law, gone to seed. The consequence of every such law, if not its intent, is to confuse or destroy distinctions of party; to juggle with political principles, to invite one party to make the nominations for another, and thus to make conditions that will defeat all political principles that parties may represent.

Already we have reached that stage in Oregon. But they who are preparing a primary law for California propose to avoid this consequence by making it impossible for any candidate to receive a nomination from more than one party, and by requiring the candidate to make oath or affirmation that he is a member of the party whose nomination he seeks. Yet it is not apparent how these provisions can avert the consequence. Perjury, in such matters, as we have discovered in Oregon, is exceedingly easy.

How is it possible to cure the direct primary of its frauds, perjuries and absurdities? Is there any other way than return to the representative and convention system?

THE PANAMA PROBLEM.

Engineers go with Taft to Panama, to report on the alleged difficulties and errors of the plans for the locks. Reports reaching the War Department and the Isthmian Canal Commission on the Gatun dam have been conflicting. Taft goes, and takes with him a number of engineers of best reputation, to determine, if possible, what the actual conditions are.

Clearly it is not settled yet whether there is to be a sea-level canal or a canal with dams and locks. The latter has been the thought and the purpose; yet investigation may require change of plan. The change, however, would have to be authorized by act of Congress.

So persistent are the predictions of the failure of the canal on the dam and lock basis, that Taft evidently is concerned about the result. Hence his trip to Panama. Should his advisers agree that the sea-level canal would be the only safe one, he will recommend to Congress change of plan. This would not cause any serious loss in work done thus far; but a sea-level canal will cost much more money and require much longer time than the other.

It is entirely probable that change of plan will be recommended to Congress. Taft regards success at Panama as the leading problem of his Administration, by which he is to stand or fall. Hence his journey to the Isthmus with a corps of advisers.

VALUE OF SCHOOL DEBATES.

The 1908-9 series of high school debates has commenced, and from now until next June there will be keen interest in these intellectual contests between teams from the high schools of the state. While athletic contests have not ceased, these battles, in which mind rather than muscle is brought into action, will receive most attention among the institutions composing the High School Debating League. Considered from the standpoint of benefits derived, the debating contests are perhaps of more value to the students than the tests of muscular activity and endurance, for almost any boy will get what physical exercise he needs without the football and basketball games; but the debate affords an opportunity for practical training which can be secured in no other way.

It has been urged as an objection to interscholastic athletic contests that they are of no benefit to the boys who are most in need of the physical training which the games afford. Weak, undeveloped boys are not wanted in the contesting teams, and are practically barred from even the preliminary practice, for they have no chance of becoming efficient representatives of their schools. Yet they are the boys who should be given most encouragement to take physical exercise. Large, strong, healthy boys, who really do not need the training, are the ones who get it. The same objection may to some extent be applicable to debating contests. The backward, diffident students, who are afraid to attempt public speaking and who cannot think while standing before an audience, are early eliminated from the list of those who have a chance to win places on the debating teams, and many if not most of these lose interest in local debates. Those who are least in need of the training receive the most of it.

Every high school should have its debating society, with frequent meetings all through the school year, whether the institution wins or loses in the preliminary trials in the league. Participation in the inter-high school debates gives valuable training, but training almost as valuable may be had in the local debating societies. The local debate encourages impromptu speaking, while the addresses for the inter-school debates are practically committed to memory. Though the importance of careful preparation of an address is not to be minimized, yet it should be remembered that the average citizen who has occasion to speak in public at all must in a large majority of instances speak extemporaneously. The special effort of the debating society should be to teach boys to think quickly, to throw their thoughts into logical order, and to express themselves in good English, when called upon unexpectedly to discuss any given subject. By frequent practice is this best attained.

One element of weakness in the inter-school debate is that the professors are likely to do too much of the thinking. Desire for victory too often leads the instructors to carry too much of the burden. Supervision, criticism and general suggestions are proper, of course, but the real work of preparing for a debate should be done by the students themselves. In the local debate between members of a high school debating society, practically all the work of gathering facts and forming arguments must be done by the students themselves and herein lies the superior value of the local contest. In the series of debates during this school year comparatively few contests will be had between teams from rival schools. Only a few students will participate in these. But each high school should have its local debate every week, with a large number of students taking part. In this manner can the greatest good be accomplished.

THE HATEFUL HAYTIANS.

Although General Simon has hardly been in the Haytian Presidential chair long enough to get it warm, doubts are already expressed about his ability to hold it against all comers for any protracted period. The reason for these misgivings is that, while General Simon quite clearly demonstrated his ability as a first-class revolutionist, there seems to be a cloud on his title as President. By all the rules of precedent, such as have usually prevailed in that peppery land, the ability to conduct a succesful revolution has always been regarded as the chief qualification for successor of the ruler who is "revoluted" out of office. But the case of General Simon is somewhat different from that of the regulation Haytian revolutionist. His revolt was not put in motion with any primary intention of landing himself in the President's chair, but instead it was launched for the purpose of revenge against President Nord Alexis, by whom Simon was removed from a minor office.

Long before the Simon revolt had attained great proportions, General Firmin, who had serious designs on the President's job, had been worrying Nord Alexis with frequent revolutions, all of which, however, ended with the revolutionists in the tall grass and Nord Alexis still in charge of the big stick. Now that Nord Alexis has been deposed, General Firmin and all the rest of the revolutionists will come thronging back to Hayti. Gratitude over the accomplishment of General Simon will for a time hold these active gentlemen in restraint as loyal subjects of President Simon. But history repeats itself, and fighting and plundering seem to be about the only escape valves through which the superfluous energy of the Haytians can be worked off, and in a few days, or a few weeks, there will be more revolutions in process of incubation.

General Firmin had the Presidential bee in his bonnet long before Simon was seriously considered as President, and, unless Simon drives him out of the country along with other ambitious revolutionists, it is only a question of time when he will make another attempt to seize the chief position on the island. The only objection which the rest of the world has to these periodical revolutions lies in the fact that there are quite a number of American, English, German, French and other Caucasians who have invested money and are attempting to do business on the islands. Their presence, whenever these revolutions are on, which is most of the time, necessitates warships to guard the interests of these aliens.

Property and even life will be imperiled so long as the country remains in its present chaotic condition. For that reason the indifference as to whether one negro, or band of negroes, conquers another negro or another band of negroes, is tempered somewhat by anxiety lest in the skirmish, the rights of some alien investors are trampled on. Hayti needs settling by some other people than the Haytians who hate each other.

TILLABLE AND NONTILLABLE LANDS.

Every year the state of Oregon publishes to the world a statement of assessment valuations which in some particulars is an unfair representation of conditions, and the unfairness is to the disadvantage of the state. Reference is here had to the classification of land as tillable and non-tillable. The statement of the assessed valuation of the acreage of the state for 1907, for example, conveys the information that there are in private ownership in the state of Oregon something over 3,218,000 acres of "tillable" land and nearly 18,000,000 acres of "non-tillable" land. To the casual reader this conveys the idea that nearly one-sixth of the land in this state is non-tillable, whereas the statement should be that this proportion of the land is untilled. It is the general custom of assessors to list tilled land as "tillable," and untilled land as non-tillable. For example, if a man owned 100 acres of wooded land, and cleared half of it and put it under cultivation, he would be assessed for 50 acres of tillable and a like extent of non-tillable land.

It is perhaps true that the timbered land is non-tillable in its timbered condition, but the classification used is not exactly correct. The word tillable is generally taken as synonymous with arable, or worth cultivating. The average Eastern man who reads the statement that Oregon has in private ownership 18,000,000 acres of "non-tillable" land at once gets the impression that this area of land cannot be brought under cultivation. Such an impression is grossly erroneous, and is injurious to the state. The report of assessment valuations shows that Linn County has in private ownership 186,000 acres of tillable and 791,000 acres of non-tillable land. Marion County reports 187,000 acres of tillable and 351,000 acres of non-tillable land. The figures do not include land still owned by the Government, and included in forest reserves. It is scarcely to be believed that so large a proportion of the land in private ownership in these counties is non-tillable in the sense that it cannot be tilled.

Moreover, what are tillable and non-tillable lands is a matter not yet determined. A few years ago men thought that a large part of the Columbia River counties in Eastern Oregon was "non-tillable," and yet this land has been brought under cultivation, and is producing profitable crops. There's many a small wooded valley between the Coast and Cascade ranges now classed as non-tillable which will some day produce its crops of fruit or other products. A true classification would be "tilled" and "untilled," or "cultivated" and "uncultivated." The announcement that there are in Washington County 195,000 acres of cultivated and 351,000 acres of uncultivated lands would arouse the interest of the Easterner who wants to find a home in the West. To tell him that the 351,000 acres are non-tillable leaves him with the impression that there is no prospect for home-building on all that vast area of land.

This is not a criticism of assessors. The terms used in making the classifications are prescribed by law, and not by the assessors. They have nothing to do but follow the law. Quite likely some of them include in the term "tillable" all land that can be brought under cultivation, but the common practice seems to be otherwise. But however that may be, a much more inviting presentation of conditions would be made if the terms tilled and untilled were substituted for tillable and non-tillable. There is a great deal in names, and when we have an opportunity to use more attractive ones we should do so.

With such striking examples of the advantages of keeping brchards clean and free from insect pests as are in evidence in half a dozen prominent fruit districts in this state, it would seem unnecessary to make special effort to induce owners of old orchards to clean up their trees. Unfortunately, there still remains in the state an element which refuses to adopt the new and profitable methods which are making fortunes for the progressive orchardists. It is against the orchards owned by this class of non-progressives that the Marion County fruit-growers are planning a campaign which is expected to result in clean orchards throughout the county. The early settlers in this state left us so many other things to remind us of their former presence here that it is unnecessary to spare the ax on some of the ancient apple trees that are too far gone to be reclaimed by modern treatment. As a means of self-protection, the proprietors of new orchards are forced to insist on the cleaning up of these scale-tenanted trees, and the work of reclamation should be thorough.

A seventy-mile southeast gale yesterday made a very unpleasant Christmas for the crews of half a dozen vessels which were due at Portland, and there was a vacant chair in Portland at many a Christmas dinner table which, had old Boreas refrained from his wild frolic, would have been occupied by some son of the sea. The "men who go down to the sea in ships" are a hardy breed, and their almost constant struggle with the forces of Old Neptune has a tendency to drive sentiment out of their system. Yet it is not improbable that even the task of "keeping her head to the sea" in a seventy-mile gale yesterday was insufficient continuously to divert their thoughts from some warm fireside where bright lights, sweet music and good cheer softened the tone of the gale that came tearing in from the sea. No disasters have as yet been reported, but the incoming fleet today will, without doubt, bring numerous tales of "the worst Christmas I ever spent at sea."

While the decision of the Oregon Supreme Court last Tuesday is one that very favorably affects laboring men, they should not misunderstand its scope. The decision was that where the owner of dangerous machinery fails to protect it properly and an employe is injured, the employer cannot set up the defense that the employe assumed the risk. This does not mean that the employer assumes all risks. If he has done the best he could to protect machinery and then an employe suffers an injury, the doctrine of assumed risk would apparently apply. Nor does this decision relieve the employe from responsibility for his own negligence. It imposes upon employer and employe alike the duty of exercising due precautions and this is entirely reasonable on both sides.

John C. Fisher, the theatrical man who first produced the famous "Florodora," has filed a petition in bankruptcy, with liabilities of $120,898 and assets only nominal. This unpleasant financial situation was reached in spite of the fact that the "Florodora" profits amounted to $400,000. Now if all the grateful members of the "original Florodora sextet" would contribute a dollar each, that petition in bankruptcy could be withdrawn and Mr. Fisher be raised from poverty to affluence.

Jupiter Pluvius seems to have handled the sprinkling pot rather carelessly in the Argentine this season. A few months ago the world's wheat markets were excited and higher because there was no rain in the Argentine. This week prices have been marked up because there is too much rain in the Argentine. In explanation, it is stated that the crop is now being harvested, and is susceptible to great damage if the wet weather should continue.

There is a man named Edwards over in Washington, who thinks he ought to be Lieutenant-Governor, since Hay, who was elected, is a little mixed up as to his proper place of residence. Edwards is going to test Hay's election. It is obvious that the people of Washington knew what they were doing when they turned down Edwards by many thousands.

A reader of The Oregonian sends in a long letter about the Senatorial election in Ohio, and the impropriety of the candidacy of Charles P. Taft, brother of the President. The Oregonian is not going out of its way to meddle with election of Senators in other states. Things are absurd enough at home.

Prize-fight between girls near Boston merely shows how refined and delicate are the sensibilities of the Hub. No vulgar affair between male brutes would be tolerated for an instant.

"If the Senate raises the tariff in the bill passed by the House, Taft will veto it." That's the talk. But the house hasn't passed any revision bill yet.

There were, it seems, six unbought Councilmen in Pittsburg. There appears to have been money enough to go around, too.

Castro chose an excellent way to escape a lot of trouble and get out of his job at the same time.

Such a Christmas. Too much rain for the new wagon and no snow for the new sled.

One week from today every seat in the swear-off water wagon will be taken.

There is yet time to make up with New Year's presents. Buy early.

WHY DEER ARE DECREASING.

Nonenforcement of Present Laws Is Largely to Blame.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I have read the communication of William R. Mealy that has been going the rounds of the papers of the state in regard to the proposed scalp bounty and the cause of the rapid disappearance of the deer.

Since I have been making careful investigations as to the cause of the rapid decrease of the deer for the last few years and my conclusions agree only in part with the writer of the above article, I thought that a few words from me on this subject might be of interset to some of your readers.

I am of the opinion that the cause of the present scarcity of deer is the lack of enforcement of the existing game laws and also the need of better ones.

While no one who is familiar with the circumstances doubts that the predatory animals destroy a great many deer, I do not believe that the destruction wrought by them equals that of the deer-skinner in the isolated places, who kills them on their Winter range, and of other persons who violate the game laws. I have in mind one party who told me that not very many years since he killed 1500 deer during one Winter, and that during several Winters he had killed more than 1000 each Winter.

I do not believe that the wolves and cougars are any more plentiful than formerly, but of course, the growing scarcity of game causes them to frequent the settlements much more than in the past, hence the general opinion that they are increasing very rapidly; but as the game becomes scarcer, their work is more noticeable than in former years.

While I believe that a bounty of $25 on wolves would be a good thing, I do not think that such a high bounty should be paid for cougars, as they are much more easily killed than wolves; and I do not think that anyone will take the matter seriously of paying a bounty on bears. They are not carnivorous animals at all, although one sometimes kills an occasional sheep where they are unprotected, and everyone who hunts knows that bear are disappearing almost as fast as the deer. I believe that there ought to be a law protecting bear at certain times, instead of offering a bounty for their destruction.

But in my opinion, the high bounty has its drawbacks, as well as its advantages, in so far as protecting the deer is concerned. The result of a high bounty will be to cause a great many trappers to go into the mountains, and from my observations, the trapper generally uses deer for bait. Often an entire deer is used to bait one trap, so it is plain to see that a line of 40 or 50 traps will require a great many deer for bait during a Winter's trapping, and as the trapping is generally carried on in an isolated part of the country and the trapper is interested only in making his work pay, he usually kills and skins all of the deer that he can find during this time.

I am of the opinion that unless some means can be devised to prevent trappers from killing deer out of season the increase in bounty will only result in the more rapid extermination of the game.

Deer-skinners and other violators of the game laws are usually very loud in their opinions that the predatory animals are the sole cause of the rapid decrease of deer, so that I believe the public has been misled as to the true cause of the trouble.

I am of the opinion that the only chance for the preservation of the deer lies in a shorter open season, a reduction in the number that a person is allowed to kill each year, prohibiting the use of dogs in deer hunting at all times and a much better enforcement of the laws, in connection with a sufficient bounty on wolves and cougars to secure a reduction of their numbers; but I do not believe that a high bounty alone will ever accomplish the desired result.

C. V. ODEN.

NOW BRING ON YOUR ENEMY

Charles Gardner (387 Pounds Net) Is Ready in His Fort for All Comers.

Newport Mail.

Charles H. Gardner has just completed the most remarkable log cabin ever built in the Siletz country. The new cabin is on Mr. Gardner's claim in township 8-11 and is constructed with a view of being tree and brushproof. It is built wholly of hemlock, even the roof being of hemlock shakes.

Mr. Gardner went out to his claim last Fall, after selling out his large business in Toledo. He first lived in the usual shake cabin. This did not appeal to him as ideal, and he planned a more extensive habitation, with two objects in view; a wall that would hold him up when he leaned against it (he weighs 387 pounds) and a roof that would keep falling limbs and trees out of the bed.

The house is finished, and the specifications are as follows: Walls eight feet high, built of 14 to 18-inch hemlock logs; floor 16 by 18 feet, constructed of 2-inch hemlock planks matched and fitted; roof, half-pitch, of 8-foot hemlock shakes, first-class in every respect; celled over with small hemlock logs, closely fitted; fireplace built of hemlock logs lined with sheet iron.

This fortress, for it is no less, is warranted by Gardner to support the falling of any reasonable-sized tree and to support the owner's weight on the roof if necessary. It took five men to handle the construction of it. There was no machinery or animals used in hauling or preparing the materials, and it took all five men to get some of the big hemlock logs into place with a block and tackle.

Are These Qualifications?

The Spectato. (Portlad).

The Spectator renews its protest against the system that would permit John C. Young to become Postmaster of Portland. Mr. Young's only qualifications for the place are that he was a Populist when Jonathan Bourne was a Populist, that he became a Republican when Republicanism promised greater rewards than did Populism, and that with equal facility he betrayed Populists and Republicans when to be a traitor promised some immediate profit, that he bitterly, maliciously and mendaciously assailed President-elect Taft, and that he was Jonathan Bourne's private secretary. Remarkable and splendid qualifications for the position of Postmaster of Portland, are they not? And has John C. Young any other title or claim to the position?

Our "Business Mayor."

The Spectator (Portland).

Because Mayor Lane thought he was bigger than the charter, the taxpayers have had presented to them a bill for over $3800, wages which detectives, discharged without warrant, have been awarded, but did not earn. The City Attorney says now, as he said before, that the money would have to be paid. And there is a bill for about $6000 more that will have to be paid on the same account. That is just so much of the taxpayers' money thrown away by Mayor Lane in an effort to prove that he knew more than all the rest of the city, and to show his utter contempt for a charter that did not agree with him.

"Ye Who Have Tears to Shed," Etc.

Grants Pass Observer.

Contemplate Jonathan Bourne as senior Senator from Oregon, and weep. A man without common ability, and devoid of any recommendation save inherited wealth. A man who is known to Congress as a Senator by accident, and who never will be elected Senator again. What can Mr. Bourne, with his one ambition of controlling the Federal patronage, do for Oregon in this time of need?

GOVERNOR JOHNSON LAYS WIRES

Preparing Very Early for the Democratic Nomination in 1912.

Washington Dispatch to the Boston Herald.

The Governor was careful during his entire visit not to be chummy with the notable Bryanites, but at the same time he was careful to be friendly. National Chairman Norman E. Mack was in town for a day or two along with the Governor. They had little intercourse, but that is explained by the fact that they never have been acquainted. On the other hand, it was noted that the Governor, either by accident or design, met with a number of New York and Southern Democrats. It is said that his meeting the other day with State Senator McCarren, the Democratic leader of Brooklyn, was in no sense premeditated, and simply happened. But several of the New York Democrats in Congress made much of the Governor and spent considerable time in his company.

He also received no little attention from some of the more conservative Southern Democrats in the Senate and House, who seemed pleased at an opportunity to become better acquainted with him. Just before the Governor started for New York this afternoon he visited the Senate, chatted a moment with the Minnesota Senators, and quickly strayed over to the Democratic side, where he said good-bye to Senator Johnston, of Alabama, and others there who are influential in Southern politics.

His most intimate friends in the West say that Governor Johnson wants the nomination four years from now, and is quietly furthering his plans to get it. At the same time he wants the support of both wings of the party. He does not wish to discuss politics now. He feels he cannot do so without touching upon the recent campaign, and might offend Mr. Bryan's followers if he came out with suggestions for reorganization of the party and openly sought to put himself at the head. He is more concerned just now in talking things over with various Democratic leaders and with extending his own acquaintance.

Meanwhile, he purposes to make the best possible record during his third term as Governor of Minnesota. He argues that in the long run such a course is likely to help him more than any public statements about his political views.

The Governor undoubtedly made a very favorable impression during his stay of several days in Washington. The Democrats whom he met were made to feel that he was not thrusting himself upon them, but that he courted closer and more friendly relations. They accepted that attitude as very sensible in the Governor, and will watch his career for the next two or three years from the standpoint of his being a big Presidential possibility.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

Discovered.

Condon Times.

We made a trip to Portland this week and found the town on the Willamette flourishing as usual.

Well, There Is Judge McGinn.

Albany Democrat.

The man who thinks he can make the Winter without an overcoat is having the struggle of his life.

New Road Makes Them Happy.

Wallowa Chieftain.

With stock going out by the trainload and the money coming back in bunches, who wouldn't live in Wallowa County?

Ye Editor Got His Share.

Jefferson Review.

J. A. Jones' big hog weighed 723 pounds just after killing. That is some hog. And he tastes fine, too, as the Review folks will testify. Joe never forgets this family journal.

More Than One Way Out.

Dallas Itemizer.

The other day, while eating an apple, Frank Probst got a piece down his windpipe. It bothered him considerably, as he was not able to expel it, and this morning he felt it in his head, but on making an effort expelled it through his nose.

But He Won't Burn Them.

La Grande Observer.

C. W. Jones was in Portland over Saturday and Sunday. He went down to examine the Talbot duck ranch and incidentally bought 1000 frogs with which to stock his webfoot ranch at Union. Mr. Jones will have ducks and frogs "to burn" next year.

One Heart Simply Not Enough.

Ione Proclaimer.

One of our local butchers one day this week, when dressing a steer he had killed, discovered it had two well-developed hearts. We have figured it out, though, that this steer was so happy over so much fine alfalfa feed and such warm, sunshiny weather that he simply couldn't help developing this second heart.

Great Thing to Be a Yamhill Hog.

McMinnville Telephone Register.

Amongst the number of pigs that August Ford bought for shipment to Seattle Wednesday was one from the farm of F. W. Wallace that weighed 490 pounds. And this was only an ordinary sample of the pork product of Yamhill County farmers, where the swine are often better fed than the people in some sections of the country are.

Another Train Hold-Up.

Mayger Corr. Clatskanie Chief.

Conductor Boles, on the Salt Lake & Ogden Railroad, near Delena, Or., noticed a person trying to flag his train one day last week; when the train came to a standstill, he found, not a highwayman, but his wife, who rode from Mayger three miles to get him to come home and kill a skunk which she had shut up in the chicken-coop. Mark knocked off and dispatched the Intruder.

It Was Fair Play.

Harper's Weekly.

A Chicago youth received the following note from an ex-fiancee:

"Dear Tom—As you know, I shall marry Mr. Blank during the present month. I shall, therefore, be glad to have you burn all the little notes I sent you, assuring you of reciprocity with reference to those you sent me."

To this missive the young man had the pleasure of returning this reply:

"Dear Marie—I shall at once comply with your request. And, incidentally, as your new fiance also holds a few little notes of mine, I should count it a great favor should you be able to induce him to burn them with the rest."

Lew Kind of Law Proposed.

Beaver State Herald.

The fact is, we need laws to prevent any man's owning more stock than he can keep comfortably, with sufficient penalty to prevent the infraction of those laws. Such regulations would result not only in humane treatment of our animals but also in more healthful food supplies. The ordinary idea used to be that cattle and horses were not subject to disease to the degree that human beings are. Not so at all. They have all the pulmonary troubles, are subject to indigestion, blood poison and tuberculosis as we are. Exposure or insufficient food supplies produce or aggravate the disease.

A Practical Jest.

From Puck.

"What! No promenade deck on your old tub?" indignantly exclaimed one of the latest captives—a blustering Britisher. "Where do you expect a man to stretch his legs?"

"Don't worry, your lightness," chuckled Captain Kydd. "After luncheon I'll show you the board-walk!"

LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

"I compel my daughter to practice four hours a day," said Mr. Cumrox.

"But you will make her hate music so that she will never want to go near a piano!"

"That's what I am hoping."—Washington Star.

* * *

Do "plants" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees?
And are "the sea-son's greetings" sent by salt sons of the seas?

Are Yule-logs cut from snowdriftwood by Yule-tide washed ashore?
And could you stub a mistletoe against a parlor-door?

If Eve had tried from holly-twigs a party gown to weave,
Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve?"

Saint Nicholas in autosleigh defies police and laws;
Do regulations as to speed contain a Santa clause?—Lippincott's.

* * *

"I suppose you have read Shakespeare's works?" said the young man from the East.

"Yes, all of them," replied Miss Fitz, of St. Louis, "that is, unless he has written something within the past year."—Chicago News.

* * *

Miss Mary Gawthorne, the suffragette, completely turned the tables on an interrupter, who, in a clumsy attempt to ridicule, asked her, "Don't you wish you were a man?" by replying, "No; do you?"

"Don't you think mothers should stay at home with their children?" asked a callow youth, eager to score off a well-known married suffragette who had just spoken.

Miss Gawthorne reflected for a second. "Well," she said, her voice taking an earnest, intimate note, "I don't know about that; but I do think children should stay at home with their mothers."—London Times.

* * *

She—Women have cleaner minds than men, anyhow.

He—Naturally. Look how much oftener they change them.—Philadelphia Record.

* * *

Paul Krauss, Jr., came down town the other morning with his hand in a bandage.

"I never knew there were so many sympathetic people in the town," he said the day afterward.

Within a distance of five blocks 20 people wanted to know how the young man had been injured. To the first five who asked he replied:

"Cut it on a piece of glass."

Finally this reply became monotonous and Krauss changed the character of his reply.

"I carelessly handled my knife," he explained to about ten others. In a moment of desperation he tried to dash into his father's store.

But he was not to escape. A sympathetic woman hailed him.

"Why, you look pale, Mr. Krauss," she said, "and you have been hurt. How did it happen?"

"I was run over by an automobile and killed."

As Krauss fled the woman with a look of amazement on her face remarked: "Well, how singular."—Indianapolis Star.

* * *

Caller—Sir, I am collecting for the Poets' Hospital. Will you contribute anything?

Editor—With pleasure. Call tonight with the ambulance and I will have some poets ready.—Judge.

* * *

Solemn Man—Do you hear the clock slowly ticking? Do you know what day it is ever bringing nearer?

Cheerful Man—Yes; payday.—Melbourne Table Talk.

* * *

An old farmer, who by hard work and thrifty habits had got together a small fortune, decided that the time had at length arrived when he was justified in ordering a family carriage.

He went to a carriage builder and described in detail the kind of vehicle he wished to buy.

"Now, I suppose you want rubber tires?" said the carriage builder.

"No, sir," replied the old farmer, in tones of resentment. "My folks ain't that kind. When they're riding they want to know it."—Philippines Gossip.

* * *

"The late Charles Eliot Norton," said a Bostonian, "used humorously to deplore the modern youth's preference of brawn to brain.

"He used to tell of a football game he once witnessed. Princeton had a splendid player in Poe—you will remember little Poe?—and Professor Norton, thinking of 'The Raven' and 'Annabel Lee,' said to the lad at his side:

"'He plays well, that Poe.'

"'Doesn't he?' the youth cried.

"'Is he,' said Professor Norton, 'any relation to the great Poe?'

"'Any relation?' said the youth, frowning. 'Why, he is the great Poe.'"—Boston Herald.

* * *

Two women were sitting in close conversation in a hotel parlor. One said to the other, "Are you married?" The second answered, "No." The second then asked the first if she had been more fortunate, and she said no, she too was on the single list, and added, "Strange two estimable women as ourselves should have been overlooked in the great matrimonial market!" The second then pointed out another woman near them who had been widowed four times, two of her husbands having been cremated. "That woman," she said, "is plain and uninteresting, and yet she has them to burn."—Exchange.

No "Portland Sports" Wanted.

Woodburn Independent.

A law is proposed by the Oregon Fish and Game Association to establish a closed season of two years for the protection of Chinese pheasants. There should be a clause permitting the farmer two or three for trouble and expense of keep. It would be their only opportunity to get them, for the Portland sports, after the birds had a two years' rest, would make the slaughter great and complete. This year they killed and took back the little bits of birds, and now they ask for a closed season! With as many little ones gone, it is time the rapacity of the Portland sports was checked to a considerable extent. Make the closed season five years.

Taft's Popular Vote.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—In a recent issue of The Oregonian press dispatches show President-elect Taft polled more than 12,000 more votes than President Roosevelt polled four years previously. Is it true that Taft polled a greater number of votes than Roosevelt? J. L. J.

The total popular vote for Taft was 7,637,676; total popular vote for Roosevelt in 1904 was 7,620,337.

With 25,000 Republican Majority.

Grants Pass Observer.

Just think of Oregon being represented in the Republican United States Senate by:

Jonathan Journe, Jr. Populist.
George E. Chamberlain, Democrat.

What a lovely combination from the Republican State of Oregon!

Psychology in a Poker Game.

Cornell (N. Y.) Dispatch.

Professor Hugo Muensterberg, the Harvard psychologist, told an audience of Cornell students that applied psychology could determine who would play a good game of poker.