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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

FREE LUMBER AND OUR FORESTS.

One of the main arguments for repeal of the duty on lumber is the statement that it will tend to the conservation of our forests. Lumber coming in from Canada and other countries, it is said, will have the effect of preventing the waste of our own timber and of preserving it for future times.

To this argument it is answered that admission of lumber free not only will not protect our forests, but will increase the waste—for these reasons:

The greater part of the lumber cut in any country is lumber of lower grades. Our mills make no profit, but almost continual losses from cutting these grades of lumber; but they must continue it in order to get the smaller amount of higher grades upon which the profit is made. But by removal of the duty the percentage of low grade lumber, cut in Canada and shipped into the United States, can be greatly increased; whereas now it is held back to a considerable extent by our tariff.

With Canada's low-grade stuff added to the American low-grade product, the market price for this class of lumber would be still further reduced. Yet first-class lumber would still be wanted, and our forests would be culled and cut over to get it. The result would be large destruction of the less profitable trees, and in the long run great loss. The inferior timber wouldn't be worth saving, for it could not be cut with profit, after the best, out of which the profit is made, had been removed. Besides, the culled-over forest is especially liable to destruction by fire, by wind and by disease. The editor of the American Lumberman (Chicago) writes:

Unsound trees, or sound trees of certain species, if deprived of the protection of the trees growing around them, will almost inevitably be leveled by high winds. The small and growing trees—the young forest—are threatened by the debris left from logging operations. Trees exposed by removal of surrounding trees are liable to fresh attacks of fungus growth and insects, introducing tree diseases which cause their decay and death.

The same writer, in his statement to the Congressional committee, offered these remarks:

The only practical way to conserve and perpetuate the forests on land which should be devoted to tree growing instead of crop growing or grazing is to make timber and lumber values so high that it will be possible for timber owners to devote the necessary capital and annual expenditure to the establishment and maintenance of forestry methods; then, with values rendering such methods possible and with protection from unjust and ruinous taxation, the states may justly require the adoption of such methods of handling forest properties as will preserve and perpetuate them for the benefit of future generations; but to lower the values of timber and lumber, and particularly of the low grades, is to do just the opposite of what those who would conserve the real interests of the country desire.

This argument, whether correct and sound throughout or not, is highly interesting and well worth attention. The opinion of most owners of timber and manufacturers of lumber in Oregon and Washington appears to be in accord with it.

PACIFIC FLEET NEEDED.

With the policy of retrenchment preventing necessary river and harbor appropriations, the enormous demands being made for money for new and larger battleships will hardly be received with very good grace by Congress. The Administration plan for four of the largest battleships in the world was cut down one-half, and recommendations were made for construction of two 26,000-ton battleships at a cost of approximately $29,000,000. These vessels would not only be the largest craft in the American Navy, but they would be about 5000 tons larger than those of any other nation. Since the recent trouble over anti-Japanese legislation in California there has been an attempt to frighten Congress into adoption of the Administration's original plan for four of the mammoth battleships, which, equipped and ready for service, would probably cost not far from $75,000,000, a sum sufficient to carry to successful termination nearly all of the river and harbor works now under way in the United States.

The threatening tone of the Japanese jingo press is being used as an argument for rush work on a new fleet of these money-devouring leviathans in order that we may be prepared to meet the hostile fleets of the yellow peril on approximately even terms. This anxiety over possible war with Japan is somewhat belated. It comes in time, however, to vindicate the attitude of the people of the Pacific Coast regarding retention of the fleet on this Coast. The ostensible excuse for this world-girdling jaunt of our fleet was that it would make a demonstration of power that would awe Japan into humble fear. The tone of the Japanese press shows quite clearly that it has failed in this respect; but, had the demands of the Pacific Coast been heeded and the fleet been still on guard along the Pacific, where it properly belongs, the Japanese might talk less glibly about avenging their imaginary wrongs against this country.

Had we succeeded in convincing the Administration that our battleship fleet had been built and was maintained for something besides show purposes, California would not today be in the defenseless position in which she was placed by return of the fleet to the Atlantic station, a station from which all possibilities of war have apparently vanished. Economic conditions, which in the final analysis settle all differences of war as well as peace, make warfare on the Atlantic Ocean improbable. The European powers, as well as the best authorities on the subject in the United States, unite in the belief that the Pacific will be the scene of the world's next and greatest war.

In the face of that generally expressed belief, and with many vexed questions between the United States and Japan still unsettled, the fleet is hurried away from the Pacific Coast, leaving us absolutely unprotected. Japan could send her entire fleet across the Pacific in twenty days. The United States can get no ships from the Atlantic squadron in less than sixty to ninety days, or about a month after the war would be over. It is a waste of money to build any more battleships to be stationed on the Atlantic Coast, where their services are not needed.

ANOTHER CALL FOR "MORE."

More money is asked for Oregon's exhibit at Seattle. The appropriation made two years ago for the purpose was $100,000. A mighty fine state exhibit could be made for this sum. The State of Washington's exhibit at the Lewis and Clark Fair at Portland cost less than $70,000; the State of California's, about $85,000. Both states had excellent buildings; both had highly creditable exhibits. Both states spent much money on entertainment.

Before any more money is granted by the Legislature for Oregon's exhibit at Seattle a careful report on what has been done with the $100,000 heretofore appropriated should be required. That the fund is practically exhausted now, so long in advance of the Exposition, would seem to indicate prodigality and waste in the management. It would be interesting to learn how much money has actually been spent for preparations for the exhibit, and how much for "expenses of administration."

The Legislature should require rendition of a detailed account, which should be closely scrutinized before any further appropriation is made.

TO MULTIPLY OFFICIAL PLACES.

Promoters of the bill to create a State Fire Marshal assert that the tax of one per cent on premiums for expenses of the office "will not be an additional burden to taxpayers." The insurance companies will pay it.

A very ancient error underlies all assumptions of this kind. It is an error that has appeared in all times, in the multitude of schemes invented to make business pay the expenses of maintaining forces of officials who want jobs that compel payment of salaries "out of the business." The insurance companies will simply add the one per cent to the amount of the premium which the owner of the property will pay. This is a bill merely to create another group of useless officeholders.

Likewise, if the bill to guaranty insurance of bank deposits shall become a law, compelling the banks to pay in a percentage on their deposits to create a fund for support and administration of the system, including the salaries of officials, the money will be obtained or recouped by the banks out of their depositors and customers. Like the insurance companies, the banks will simply "pass it on."

The potent force underlying all these schemes is the desire to multiply official places and get salaries at the expense of the property and business of the state. Johnson's road bill is a thing of the same kind. Its chief fruits will be official salaries in a long string.

ABOUT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Probably it is useless to advise a policy of going slow in the enactment of a proportional representation law, but a word of caution will be given nevertheless. There are several reasons why the enactment of such a measure should not be undertaken now, even if it be admitted that proportional representation is wise in principle. In the first place, the constitutional amendment authorizing enactment of a proportional representation law was adopted under the initiative and the validity of the initiative amendment itself is in question in the United States Courts. If the initiative amendment is invalid, all that has been done under it must fail. Nothing further of an important nature should be undertaken in pursuance of amendments adopted under the initiative until this fundamental question is settled.

Again, advocates of proportional representation who have made an exhaustive study of the subject and have observed the practical operation of proportional representation laws agree that no plan yet devised is entirely satisfactory. That being true, there is no reason why Oregon should plunge immediately into new experimental legislation. Oregon has now several amendments and measures of an experimental nature which are yet to be proven practical, and, until the people have become accustomed to them and have learned to work under them, nothing new should be adopted. When a strong Republican state cannot manage to elect a Republican United States Senator, the election laws should not be made more complicated.

EXEMPTING BONDS FROM TAXES.

Senator Mulit's bill exempting state, county, city, school district or other municipal bonds from taxation will probably have some opposition in the Legislature because of its comprehensive nature. The bill provides for exemption of bonds heretofore or hereafter issued. The theory upon which the bonds are to be made non-taxable is that this exemption will enable the state, county, city or school district to sell bonds upon a lower rate of interest, so that the exemption will make no material difference. If this assumption is true, presumably bonds would sell at a less rate of interest after passage of the act than they have sold in the past. But the bill applies to bonds already sold, as well as those yet to be sold, so that if buyers of bonds in the past have bought them upon the understanding that they were taxable, and secured a rate of interest accordingly, this exemption would be in the nature of a favor to them. As a matter of fact, bonds issued by public corporations are seldom assessed, chiefly for the reason that the holders do not give them in with the list of their property and partly for the reason that many assessors think public corporation bonds should be exempt. To a large extent the Mulit bill (S. B. 23) proposes to make lawful what is now the common practice. To the extent that it changes present practice, it would discriminate in favor of holders of bonds heretofore sold.

There seems to be some doubt as to the constitutionality of the measure. The constitution requires that all property be taxed "except such only for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes as may be especially exempted by law." While it could be argued that exemption of municipal bonds is an exemption for municipal purposes, for the reason that this exemption would enable the municipality to secure a lower rate of interest, yet this could not apply to bonds already issued. The bonds, while issued by the state, county, city, etc., are private property and to exempt them from taxation is a favor to the owner and not to the public corporation that issued them.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY'S TRIUMPH.

Wireless telegraphy and the collision bulkhead scored a wonderful triumph in the North Atlantic Saturday, when two great ocean liners carrying 1250 passengers and more than 500 officers and crews, crashed into each other during a thick fog. The impact was so terrific that the White Star liner Republic received a death wound and the Italian liner Florida was so badly damaged that it was necessary for her to transfer all of her passengers, yet no loss of life resulted on either ship. The White Star liner was a 15,000-ton ship and the Italian vessel was about 8000 tons. The force of the collision was such that even the bulkheads were unable effectually to resist the strain. Collision bulkheads have saved lives on many a former occasion, but in no other disaster since Marconi's wonderful invention came into general use on the ocean has it had an opportunity for demonstrating its priceless value in emergencies.

Through all ages since man began sailing the seas there has been heavy loss of life and property through collision, fire and storm and in hundreds of cases the single word "missing," placed after a vessel's name on the maritime records, tells all that is known of the fate of the lost vessels and their crews and passengers. But, thanks to Marconi's almost supernatural skill, the cry for help from a wounded vessel on any of the great trade routes may now be heard round the world. Out of the wild confusion which followed the rude awakening Saturday morning of the hundreds of passengers who found themselves in fog and darkness on the sinking ships, wireless messages flashed over the ocean, carrying the cry for help. The cry was heard, and from all points of the compass rescuing craft shaped their course for the scene of the disaster.

Great ocean liners, booming along on the last lap of the voyage across the Atlantic, caught the message, rounded to and raced back to the rescue; others, outward bound, with the voyage just fairly begun, spurted to the scene and stood by to help. The invisible waves rolled shoreward through the air, and at every port along the North Atlantic the cry for help was heard and revenue cutters, tugboats and other craft went scurrying out on the errand of mercy. It will, of course, require investigation to determine who was to blame for the collision, but, from the reports already at hand, there will be nothing but praise for the masterly way in which the affair was handled after the collision occurred. All that has ever been written, printed or spoken in favor of Marconi's great invention has been fully warranted by the remarkable results shown in the first great emergency in which it was called on to render such service.

SOURCE OF HARRIMAN'S POWER.

Recent publication of a list of the largest stockholders on American railroads has caused considerable comment in financial and transportation circles. Not all of the big railroads in the country are included in this list, which has just trickled out after two years of seclusion in the archives of the Interstate Commerce Commission; but those with which the public are most familiar are mentioned. The distribution of these stockholdings makes a striking showing of the power wielded by E. H. Harriman and explains why the individuality of that railroad king has been stamped on the properties in his charge to such a remarkable degree. These figures were secured by the Interstate Commerce Commission more than two years ago, and since that time it is a well-known fact that Mr. Harriman has materially increased his holdings and his power.

They show that as far back as 1906 Mr. Harriman was credited with possession of $116,000,000 worth of Union and Southern Pacific stocks. Mr. Harriman is not the actual owner of such a vast aggregate of stock as stands in his name, but the fact that it has been placed with him in such shape that he can use it in any manner he chooses is accountable for so much of the evidence of "one-man power" that characterizes the management of the Harriman lines. The Northern Pacific and the Great Northern are as distinctively Hill roads as the Union and Southern Pacifics are Harriman roads; but Mr. Hill's holdings in these lines, however, are very small compared with those of Mr. Harriman in the lines under his control.

In the Great Northern, which was the foundation for Mr. Hill's railroad prestige and fortune, he is credited with ownership of but $2,000,000, while his Northern Pacific holdings are placed at $8,000,000, a total of $10,000,000 for the two roads, compared with Mr. Harriman's $116,000,000 in the two "Pacifics," which are oftener mentioned as "Harriman lines" than by their proper names. Other big stockholders in the Union and Southern Pacific are Kuhn, Loeb & Co., the New York financiers, who are to such a large extent responsible for Mr. Harriman's rise to power. The associations of the railroad king with this great banking-house are such that on all questions regarding the policy of the road their holdings are undoubtedly at the disposal of Mr. Harriman. The largest stockholder in the Hill lines is John S. Kennedy, of New York, a man whose name is seldom mentioned in connection with the properties. A close second for Mr. Hill's $10,000,000 holdings in the Hill lines is Lord Strathcona, who is credited with $6,880,000.

Aside from any consideration of the personnel of the Senate ways and means committee, President Bowerman was apparently wise in his selections for that committee, for the reason that nearly all its members come from counties that have no state institutions. Of the seven members, two are from Multnomah County, one is from Clatsop, one from Washington, one from Klamath, one from Clackamas and one from Marion. Marion is the only county in the list which has a state institution, and none of the others even wants a state appropriation. The committee is in a position to view all demands for appropriations from an entirely disinterested point of view. It is very difficult for a legislator from a county having a state institution to consider impartially requests for money from the state treasury for institutions in his county. The fact that state institutions have been scattered over the state has led to a practice of trading in appropriations and this is encouraged by placing on the ways and means committees men who represent counties with a special interest in certain state institutions. It is well to have a ways and means committee free from the bias which is likely to arise from local interest.

Several bills for the regulation of the appropriation and use of water have been introduced in the Legislature, and there is no doubt that a measure of this kind should be passed. The Conservation Commission has had a bill drawn by a committee which has given the subject considerable study, and it is to be supposed that the bill submitted by it contains pretty near what the state needs in the way of legislation. After all the work that has already been done, there should be no great difficulty in deciding upon and passing a satisfactory water code. It has been asserted that water-users are willing to bear the greater part of the cost of water administration, and, if that is true, others cannot well complain whatever the cost of administration may be. The question of riparian rights having been practically eliminated by the Supreme Court decision, the Legislature should not find the water problem difficult.

The "North Coast," a railroad line that has thus far succeeded in keeping an impenetrable mantle of mystery around its identity and purposes, has let a contract for a $1,000,000 bridge across the Columbia River near Kennewick. It is a matter of indifference to the people of the Northwest who is building the railroads into this territory, so long as they display sufficient financial responsibility to build $1,000,000 bridges and pay cash for their right of way, as the mysterious "North Coast" has been doing. Unlike the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railroad, the "North Coast" by its name would imply that it expected support from the entire north coast territory, and at the present rate of development and growth it will not be disappointed.

If you had read twenty years ago any story about hundreds of lives being saved from a sinking ship through wireless telegraphy, you would have marveled only at the inventive genius of the writer; but when you read yesterday the wonderful news account of the wreck of the steamship Republic and the rescue of her passengers by means of messages sent into the air, you saw simply the practical workings of a device now universally used on the high seas. But, all the same, you never read a more thrilling story of the sea and its perils.

The question whether insurance companies should be required to make a $50,000 deposit as a security for the performance of their contracts is one which should be considered from the standpoint of the policyholder. It is asserted on the one side that repeal of the deposit law will make insurance unsafe. On the other side it is asserted that rates are too high and that repeal will result in rate-reducing competition. People who have property to insure are the ones whose interests and desires should be considered.

By all means let us have a law to forbid picnics, baseball games and visits to the parks on Sundays. Compel people to sit moodily at home or sleep all day; or, better still, perhaps, compel them to turn out and hear Brother Clarence True Wilson and Brother Brougher preach. If it's to be a day of penance, that's probably the thing.

President Roosevelt appears to have succeeded in holding California up on anti-Japanese legislation. His work is that of enlightened statesmanship. There is no need for any American state to insult Japan. Property rights of Japanese in the United States must be the same as those of all other foreigners.

One Washington County man killed another because he suspected the latter of spreading reports concerning his personal conduct. This was unwise. If he had encouraged the reports he might have got elected to office. He was evidently not a student of practical politics.

The potatoes, apples, etc., frozen during the recent cold spell would have sold for enough money to build many a vegetable house which would keep out the cold. It is not too late to build a good root-house, even if last year's spuds have been frozen.

The sacred domain of Tibet may be likened to a jail, in that it is a good place to keep out of. J. H. Brooke, member of the Royal Geographical Society of London, is the latest explorer to prove this estimate by the sacrifice of his life.

Multnomah County has practically one-third the population of the state and pays practically one-third of the state taxes, so why shouldn't it have practically one-third the representation in the Legislature?

If ex-Police Judge Hogue paid back a $25 fine wrongfully imposed several years ago on an aggrieved California acquaintance then by chance in Oregon, he is establishing a very costly precedent.

Fifteen obstinate legislators are preventing the election in Illinois of Senator Hopkins, the popular choice. Evidently the voice of the peepul doesn't reverberate much in the Illinois Legislature.

The Legislature reached the end of the second week of its session before the famous House Bill 104 was mentioned. Evidently legislators are becoming more temperate or more secretive.

There is a loud call for a watchdog of the treasury at Salem—a dozen of them. But they should do something more than bark.

Senator Kellaher's nine-foot-sheet bill should include a bounty on cimex lectularius

A WORD OR TWO.

Eugene Register.

If Oregon Republicanism is on the way to the political boneyard let it blame no one, nor enter no protest except to Oregon Republicanism. Oregon Democracy is not responsible for anything in this connection other than for taking advantage of Republican disintegration for which it is more to be commended than condemned, for Oregon Republicanism has thrown down the bars and turned Oregon Democracy loose in the political pasture. If it does not fatten until it absolutely controls state affairs it will be Democracy's own fault and not the fault of Oregon Republicanism.

Lebanon Criterion.

No sane man will contend that either Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Bourne is the choice of a majority of the people of Oregon for Senator. Every man with intelligence enough to prevent a mental inquisition well knows that neither of these Senators is the honest choice of a majority of the people of Oregon. The sorry spectacle regarding the law is, that those who are shouting loudest for it are the ones who have been most effective and active in perverting it and abusing it, and by perjury have caused it to wholly miscarry in its objects. In other words, the thief is crying to be honest. The Republicans have been deceived and trapped and this condition will cause a new deal in Republican politics in Oregon, with a new dealer and it will be on a higher and more Republican foundation.

Hood River Glacier.

There is no question that the trend of public opinion is toward the election of United States Senators by direct vote, and it would also appear that the time may not be far distant when this manner of electing them may prevail. To do this will require a more or less united demand on the part of the various states, and all makeshift and compromise measures such as the direct primary law, which must of necessity be ineffective and abortive, will undoubtedly retard rather than hasten action that will lead to this end.

Corvallis Gazette.

Does any sane man in the State of Oregon, be he Republican or Democrat, for a moment believe that the Senator-elect can meet these requirements any more than the average man can serve both God and mammon? Can a man who is an avowed opponent of Republican principles so far forget his deeply-imbibed Democratic doctrines as to enhance the former to the certain detriment of the latter? There may be occasional instances on record of such a sinking of party obligation, but they are so rare in these days as to escape even microscopic observation. Why, or how this political anamoly was perpetrated it is now useless to waste time in attempted explanation. That it has been done is enough to know, and that it must be endured for six long years is just as certain. The Republicans of Oregon have no one to blame but themselves for it all and they will have to swallow just 2191 doses of daily regret before the time comes around again to change the medicine to a more agreeable quality.

SHORTEN DUCK-SHOOTING SEASON

William L. Finley Protests Passage of One House and Senate Bill.

JENNINGS LODGE, Or., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—I have noted The Oregonian's editorials along the line of game protection and think that they are full of common sense, because it is recognized that game birds and other animals have some rights beyond those of the man who continually wants to shoot.

I wish to call the attention of those who are interested in wild bird protection to a portion of House bill 108, introduced January 20, and Senate bill 20, introduced January 21. Instead of shortening the season for duck shooting, as it should be, a certain class of men is trying to lengthen it, so as to have a season of "Spring shooting."

In traveling through this state in the study of wild-bird life, I have questioned many men as to the abundance of wild ducks. It is almost the universal opinion that wild ducks are decreasing in number very rapidly. For instance, while in Harney and Klamath Counties, where ducks are still plentiful, I questioned many of the older settlers and asked about the abundance of water fowl. Nine out of ten said the decrease was very marked, and that there is absolutely no question that it is steady and rapid.

I know there are different causes at work. One of the main causes is little or no check upon hunting. With the improvement in firearms and the increased number of hunters, the ducks are having mighty little show. The trouble with duck hunters is that they say ducks do not breed here, but are migratory. "If we do not shoot them as they pass through, some one else will." This is not true. Oregon was formerly one of the greatest breeding places for ducks in the United States, and in certain sections today Oregon breeds as many wild ducks as any equal area in the world. Duck hunters tell me these birds do not breed in the Willamette Valley. Of course not abundantly, because for years and years these pot-hunters have been hunting, disturbing and driving them out.

Our present law allows hunters to kill ducks five months of the year throughout part of our state, and in other sections they can slaughter seven months and a half. This season is entirely too long. No valid reason can be shown why these ducks should not have the same protection as upland game birds.

Regardless of all the facts concerning the decrease of ducks, we have a despicable set of pot-hunters in our midst who cannot slaughter enough. They want to shoot while the mother is feathering her nest and almost before the ducklings can take wing. These pot-hunters are not abashed. They have the unadulterated nerve to now go before the Legislature of this state and ask for a still longer time to shoot ducks. "We do not kill enough. We will fight till we get a longer season. We are going to have our rights," they say. Of course, they do not kill enough. In former years they slaughtered and slaughtered and killed when it was not right to kill. Of course their bags are not as large as they used to be. Our ducks have been killed or driven away, and now, instead of giving them a show to rear their young, these despoilers are trying to drive in the last spike so as to complete the extermination. They demand our legislators to give them a longer time to shoot in the Spring.

I am glad that the sentiment of The Oregonian and the sentiment of our best class of people is against these so-called "hunters," who are not sportsmen at all, who are mere slaughterers of wild birds. In the name of game protection, I want to ask The Oregonian and the people throughout the state who are interested in the preservation of our wild fowl, to raise a voice and see that our wild birds are not exterminated.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY.

Indians Wolves Getting Sociable.

Fort Wayne Dispatch to New York World.

Running at large in Jefferson township are two large wolves that are said to be sociable to an unpleasant degree. They are of the gray, or timber, variety, and seem to be accustomed to human society, as they only run when pursued or shot at. They like the companionship of sheep and fat fowls the best, and have displayed their affection by eating up a considerable quantity of the animals. So far all efforts at capture have been in vain.

SETTLEMENT OF TRADE DISPUTES

Exception Taken to Criticism of Labor Commissioner Hoff's Report.

PORTLAND, Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—In last Thursday's Oregonian appears a news article giving a synopsis of a report to the Manufacturers' Association by Fletcher Linn, retiring president of the Association, where his criticism of the position of Labor Commissioner Hoff on strikes is the great feature, and I wish to call attention to some of its contents.

Mr. Linn picks out a single sentence from Mr. Hoff's report, the context of which changes the construction he places upon it. The language in the report of the Commissioner, "and at last the only effective arbitration has been the strike and lockout," is giving history. Mr. Linn converts it into an advice by misquoting that sentence to "the only effective arbitration is the strike and lockout."

Regarding Mr. Linn, who, from motives best known to himself, has chosen to pick up a single sentence out of the report and misquote the same, there is nothing to say. To the public can be said that the report gives facts as he found them. The report shows that very few strikes have occurred in Oregon during the last two years, and those of only little consequence. I know of no strike in the last six years being settled by arbitration, and the same is probably the case with Mr. Hoff. All disputes settled peaceably have been done so by the "exercising of good judgment on the part of the employer and the employe, alike recognising each other's rights, and fully understanding that either one is helpless without the other," a quotation from Mr. Hoff's report not noticed by Mr. Linn.

As far as known, during his incumbency in the office of Commissioner of Labor, has given neither to individuals nor collections of men, one word advising a strike. Those who know him best know that he is opposed to them, and that on every opportunity when he addresses union people deplores the use of strikes as a weapon, advising that if unjust conditions exist such could be settled by the parties involved by using such goods as bear the mark of having been made by well-paid labor, working under humane conditions—a method absolutely within the law.

The entire comment in Mr. Hoff's report on the subject of strikes is as follows:

Strikes, Lockouts and Union Label.

As long as there are ambitions, as long as men think and wish to advance, and as long as the minds of men continue to be exercised freely, and human nature remains as it now is, strikes and lockouts will come. Arbitration laws may be passed, but so far the best have proven fallible, and at last the only effective arbitration has been the strike or lockout. That strikes and lockouts are to be avoided must be patent to all, but this can only be done by the exercising of good judgment on the part of the employer and the employe, alike recognizing each other's rights, and fully understanding that either one is helpless without the other. Any law to settle this question will be looked upon as operating unjustly by one side or the other, and they therefore refuse to abide by the decision. No law can be enforced that will deny to the manufacturer the right to shut his shop when he pleases nor forbid the working man quitting his work when he feels like doing so.

That the laboring men and women have a better weapon than the strike, is certain. Two-thirds of the people are wage-earners, and as imported goods are used more by the wealthier people, it is safe to say that at least two-thirds of the American manufactured articles are used by the laboring men and women. If every one of these should demand that a trade-mark, showing that the article was made by well-paid and honest labor, at least two-thirds of the work would have to be performed by such labor and undoubtedly control the output. This would settle all strikes. Every workingman, every workingwoman and child, every person, old and young, depending on such workman, if they would use only such articles as bear the right mark, the right label, strikes would be unnecessary. Those who are honest union men or profess to believe in union principles, should refrain from advocating a strike until all they bought, as far as possible, bore the union label.

This speaks for itself.

W. F. DUNLAP.

WANTS CLACKAMAS RIVER OPEN

Futile to Try to Conserve Salmon There, Says Writer.

GLADSTONE, Or., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—It seems to me that in closing the Clackamas River, Fish Warden McAllister is working a hardship on a number of people and accomplishing very little. It is no use trying to conserve the salmon in this river until something has been done at Cazadero, so that the fish can get over the dam. Thousands of salmon kill themselves every year trying to get over this impediment and reach their spawning grounds above.

It is true, there is an apology for a fish ladder at this point, but it only enables the fish to reach the race below the head-gates. The water is so swift here that none can get through to the upper river. As for the rod-and-line fishermen, the number of salmon they bag in a year is so insignificant that it is scarcely worth considering at all. But by closing the river to this class of fishermen lots of people are debarred from enjoying legitimate recreation.

The writer lives on the banks of the Clackamas and fished diligently all last season and landed one small silverside. This shows how deadly a bait a spoon hook is, and how many salmon the spoon fishers are likely to destroy. Spoon fishers should come out and register a big kick, instead of letting this ridiculous law pass without a murmur.

H. H. H.

Junk Man Buys Jail for $1.50.

New York Press.

Any person who might have desired a good second-hand jail could have purchased one at Verona, N. J., the other day, when the town's bastile was sold for a song. The town authorities recently purchased a modern two-cell jail, and the old one was ordered sold. A junk man bought the lockup for $1.50. The town is now without a place for prisoners, as the new lockup is not ready.

Swallows Teeth While He Is Bowling.

Stamford (Conn.) Dispatch to New York Tribune.

Robert Dunlap, a streetcar conductor, slipped while bowling here and swallowed a plate containing three false teeth. He was almost strangled before they passed into his stomach, but since then they have given him no trouble, and he is able to be about as usual. Dr. E. Everett Rowell has made an X-ray photograph, and an operation probably will follow.

A FEW SQUIBS.

Europeans who have regretted that this country has no privileged classes, might now take a look at well-to-do murderers among us.—New York Evening Post.

The Man—I can look in your eyes, dear, and see everything. The Maiden—I am sorry; but when I told father he looked in Bradstreet's and saw nothing.—Puck.

"When a man loves a girl for herself alone," says the Philosopher of Folly, "it makes him mad to find out that he's marrying her whole family."—Cleveland Leader.

"Are there degrees of rank in the servants' hall? "To be sure. Maids who have charge of dogs won't associate with maids who look after children."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Mabel forgets herself at times. I think she's growing careless." "What makes you say that?" "A man gave up his seat to her in the streetcar the other day and she thanked him for it."—Detroit Free Press.

Suffragette Mother (snatching a spare moment from really important things to visit the nursery)—But, my dear child, what are you crying for, with all these nice toys? What can you want? Infant—Boo-hoo! I want a vote!—Punch.

"How do yoah 'possum taste, suh?" asked the solicitous waiter. "Well," responded the patron who had ordered the article, "it tastes pretty good, but it isn't 'possum." "No, suh," rejoined the waiter, "an' dat's a sign it's genuine. De genuine 'possum is a great pretender, suh; yas, suh."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

SILHOUETTES

BY ARTHUR A. GREENE.

Professor—What is your idea of the law of "natural selection?"

Flippant Student—Choosing a silk umbrella from the hallrack and leaving a cotton one.

* * *

Many women prefer being gossiped about to being known as a "good housekeeper."

* * *

Life's Puzzle.

Sometimes it seems that life is all a dream,
And then again it seems a waking up
From some long, dreamless sleep.
Sometimes it seems that once, before we lived,
We knew the secrets of the world's unending theme,
But coming hence forgot them all to dream.

* * *

Speaking of "forlorn hopes," what do you think of those households where the mistletoe still clings to the chandelier?

* * *

New York is boasting of a purple rat which is drawing sightseers to the Central Park Zoo. Here, where it is a common thing to see lavender bullfrogs and cerise boa constrictors romping gally over the wallpaper, a little matter like a purple rat would excite no interest.

* * *

A woman may pretend to dress for the occasion, but it is the invariable rule that she dresses for the man.

* * *

Men's sins are mostly indulgences in selfishness, while women's are usually committed in sacrifice.

* * *

Modern Nursery Rhymes.

There was a crooked man,
And he went a crooked mile—
Can you fancy anybody so benighted?
And he said, "Now, if I can
Keep this grafting up a while
I won't mind it very much if I'm indicted."

* * *

Let us hope that the passing of the "Teddy Bear" will not result in the popularizing of the "Willie Goat."

* * *

It is a strange perversity of tough luck that the fellow with the crackers and tea income has a terrapin appetite and vice versa.

* * *

Souls shrivel in an atmosphere of money.

* * *

If we had checking accounts on our consciences most of us would be overdrawn.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY.

Return With More Than They Take.

Salem Statesman.

Several of the state exchanges contain "personals" about Miss So-and-So coming to Salem to visit for a month. Yes, and return home with about $120 unearned money from the State Treasury Department.

Prosperity in Ione.

Ione Proclaimer.

This will be the last issue of this paper in its present quarters, as we have purchased the Marshall O. Rose building next door to the postoffice, and will move there on Saturday of this week.

Tooth From Another Age.

Grants Pass Observer.

Last week some boys, who were fishing near the old power-house on the river, found a peculiar rock which proved to be the tooth of a mastadon and is a very fine specimen. It is evidently a molar tooth and the biting surface is absolutely perfect. It is about six inches in diameter and weighs about three pounds. The root of the tooth is gone, but outside of that it is perfect. From the appearance of the molar it is quite evident that the animal that formerly owned it was not a water animal, as the tooth looks more like that of a horse.

Many Beaver Near Monument.

Long Creek Ranger.

Beavers are not only becoming plentiful in the Monument country, but are beginning to be destructive to many of the orchards of that vicinity. Many dams are now being placed in the North Fork River and the smaller streams tributary to the river in and about Monument. The farmers say that it is remarkable how fast these animals have multiplied during the last few years.

Ah, Ha! The Villian Is Worsted.

Hillsboro Argus.

The most persistent and annoying class of men extant collect for photo-enlarging houses. One came to Hillsboro this week, and impudently told the lady of the house that she must pay $1.50 for the return of a picture loaned the firm. This she refused to do, and the collector became insulting. After the agent left, the lady's husband returned, and, learning the state of affairs, went out upon the street and found the picture man, and enlarged his face until it resembled a full moon. The last seen of the picture man he was looking for a butcher shop to get a steak poultice for his face.

Chronicle of Exciting Week's Doings.

Mayger Cor. Clatskanie Chief.

Mr. Bryant left his fish trap in this Winter. He reports a good run of ice.

Bert Edmonds killed the wild cat which has been robbing the poultry-yards around here the past few months.

It is reported that T. Taylor lost all of his hogs and some other stock by starvation and cold last week. It's no joke when you live on an island and the river freezes up.

Olef Sunberg, while skating on the river near the shore at this place, found some thin ice and straightway took to sounding the harbor; being of pretty good length and a good scrambler, he managed to get out all right.

Nature Fakers and Rabbits.

Pilot Rock Record.

What makes the hunting of the larger rabbits among the sagebrush interesting is the fact that they do not run until hit, which makes business good for the hardwaremen and other dealers in sporting goods. It also affords sport for the hunter who is not a Roosevelt shot, but nevertheless a true sportsman and an enemy of nature fakers. In some of the textbooks on natural history the statement that a rabbit, when hard pressed after being wounded, can make its escape by burrowing in the snow and running along on the ground for 50 or 100 yards without being seen, might be disputed, but the man who disputes it is a nature-faker pure and simple. The writer of this lost a big "jack" Wednesday in this way. The rabbit, under cover of a foot of snow, made remarkable progress, and diligent search failed to locate him. He may have crossed the creek under the ice, but as to this no positive statement can be made.

Three-Year-Old Asks Nurse's Arrest.

Atlantic City (N. J.) Dispatch.)

A 3-year-old child at Atlantic City asked police headquarters through the telephone to send an officer to the house. When he arrived the child said: "I told nurse I'd get a policeman if she didn't let me sail brother's boat." The child wept when her demands for the arrest of her nurse were refused.