

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, May 5, 1909.

QUESTIONS ON THE TARIFF.

The postmaster at Winlock, Washington, Mr. John Gruber, has asked The Oregonian a number of questions about the tariff which are intelligent enough to merit a serious answer.

Mr. Gruber's inquiries that he is deeply interested in the sacred necessity of a prohibitive tariff, and that he imagines his reasons for favoring it to be excellent.

Mr. Gruber's questions. He asks, first, "If, as you assert, it is not the competition of the pauper against the American workman that we fear, why should the American workman dread the pauper himself when he comes to this country?"

Mr. Gruber now pushes the matter a step further: "Is it not a fact that the laborer from Great Britain and Germany, after landing on our soil, has to command a higher price for his labor than the American workman?"

By lumping the Germans and English together as pauper laborers, Mr. Gruber shows himself negligent of another important fact. How does it happen that the German laborer is a pauper when he enjoys the blessing of a protective tariff even higher than our own?

abroad. Otherwise they would not be affected in the least degree. "A Steinway piano sells in New York for \$550, in London for \$70, in Hamburg for \$300 marks.

It is a fair question, and it shall receive as fair an answer as we can frame. While the foreign workman stays in his native country he is not a competitor in our labor market.

But when the foreigner becomes a resident here, he becomes a competitor in our labor market. If he finds a job, it can only be by competing with other workmen.

Mr. Gruber has observed the facts of life a little more closely, he will discover the benefit of a protective tariff. The time when the intelligent workmen of those countries could better themselves here has passed away.

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get Sound in 1908 exported more than one-fourth of all the wheat sent foreign from the United States and nearly one-fifth of all the flour exported was sent from the three states through the Puget Sound.

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spend any unusual amount of money running opposition to President Harriman, of the Southern Pacific. This the able judges of the Supreme Court will finally be called on to settle.

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SIMPLY A RULE OR RUIN POLICY How Can a Friend of the Direct Primary Support the Boss? PORTLAND, May 4.—(To the Editor.)—The undisputed power of a direct primary law, as set forth by its promoters and defenders, was to remove the selection of party candidates from the machine and miscellaneous persons of conventions and to place that duty in the hands of all the people—this, that every member of a party would be deprived of any excuse for not supporting its candidates.

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PUTTING IT UP TO MR. McCUSKER Several Questions That This Reformer ought to Take Time to Answer. PORTLAND, May 4.—(To the Editor.)—I desire to extend my sympathies to Thomas McCusker, who so fearfully objects to being called a "boss."

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GALLING BONDS ARE CUT V. F. Irish No Longer Has Hateful Mother-in-Law. V. F. Irish, who objects to having his mother-in-law feed his baby port wine with a spoon, was arrested yesterday.

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