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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1909.

ONLY TO WAIT AND SEE.

"Prices of clothing go skyward," our telegraphic reports from New York tell us. "Suits that could be bought a week ago for $20 the dealers are now marking up to $35." This, in anticipation of the effect of the provisions of the coming tariff bill.

Doubtless there is some exaggeration of the truth here. Possibly there is some increase of particular schedules. There ought to be no increase. Revision ought to be downward. Then there would be no excuse for these advances of price. But when dealers are able to tell customers that prices must be advanced because the duties are to be higher, they have an excuse for unconscionable charges. Perhaps increase of the duty might necessarily demand an advance of fifty cents or one dollar in a suit of clothes worth $20. This will give opportunity for temporary increase of the price from $20 to $35.

Hence the original proposition of revision downward ought to have been adhered to. It is a great wrong not to have done so. It permits extortion on the part of manufacturers and dealers. It was taken advantage of in like manner when the so-called McKinley tariff was enacted. But the advance was followed quickly by a flat fall. It is pitiful to have the tariff juggled with in this way, first by Congress, and then by manufacturers and tradespeople. But it is a sure consequence of an artificial system.

The two political parties are alike to blame for it. No longer does the Democratic party stand as an opponent of the policy that fosters monopoly. It plays steadily into the hand of the extreme Republican protectionists. Republican Senators and Representatives break away, but Democrats immediately fill their places, desiring "protection" for the interests of their several states or districts. Senator Daniel, of Virginia, answering criticisms of his course, asks: "What is the use to argue with small fry politicians who deride Senators because they do not take up the rejected and discredited platform of 1908?" So Aldrich manages to have everything very much his own way.

It is unfortunate; it is deplorable. But what is to be done about it? They who ask the question can only wait and see.

FIFTY MILLIONS FOR WHEAT.

The wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest has safely passed that anxious period when the June hot winds blow, and within a fortnight new wheat will reach some of the stations south of Snake River. There is, of course, plenty of time for damage to the Spring crop, but recent rains have greatly reduced the liability of any great deterioration from further dry weather. The crop will be large, although not a record-breaker in quantity; but with continuation of present prices, or even approximately high prices, it will bring greater net returns than any previous crop ever harvested in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. From present indications it will not fall more than 10 per cent short of the record crop of 1907, while the price promises to average nearly 20 per cent greater than the crop of two years ago.

Unless there is an unexpected slump in prices, the 1909 wheat crop of the three states should sell for approximately $50,000,000, an amount considerably in excess of the sum to be returned by any other single industry in the three states. Oregon, Washington and Idaho have been developing other industries at such a rapid rate that the wheat crop no longer monopolizes the commercial stage as it did a few years ago, before timber, fruit and other industries began moving to the front. For all that, it still remains the one great product that brings more foreign money into the Pacific Northwest than is brought by all other exports combined. Wool, salmon, fruit, lumber and livestock in the aggregate produce far more wealth, but the money for these staples nearly all comes from buyers in this country, while the wheat crop is mostly sold abroad and the returns received are directly and indirectly a benefit to the entire country.

Perhaps the best feature in connection with this large crop, which can be marketed at big prices, lies in the fact that it is coming at a time when most of the farmers are still in affluence as the result of many other good crops at comparatively high prices. Tangible evidence of the financial conditions of the wheatgrowers is shown in the heavy demand for automobiles in the principal wheat districts and in the decision of many of the farmers to hold their wheat for $1 per bushel, a figure but slightly higher than is now obtainable for new-crop delivery. The Pacific Northwest has not yet reached a stage of industrial development where the home consumption demands require more than a very small proportion of the crop produced in the three states. For that reason there will be but little grumbling among the consumers over the increased price of flour and the general benefits which will result from the unusually high prices will more than offset the trivial per capita increase in the cost of bread.

With a $50,000,000 wheat crop for a starter, and other grains with a value of at least $20,000,000, together with fruit, wool, livestock, hops and dairy products, it is easy to figure up $100,000,000 worth of farm products in the three states this year. This amount of money percolating through the various channels of trade will materially increase the commercial activity that is already breaking all existing records.

HELPING OUT GOVERNOR HAY.

It would appear that Insurance Commissioner Schively has become an issue in Washington politics. Governor Hay has staked the fortunes of his administration on Schively's removal. The enemies of the Governor are lined up in opposition to the impeachment proceeding. The merits of the grave charges against Schively are forgotten. It would almost seem that the Governor, and not the corrupt and shameless Insurance Commissioner, is on trial, for the anti-Hay faction in the Legislature is inspired largely by a determination that Hay shall not have his way.

A noble motive, indeed. But if the impeachment and dismissal from office of Schively shall be defeated, what then? Or if, after a protracted trial, costing a great many thousand dollars and wearing out the patience of the public, the anti-Hay Senators must yield to the weight of evidence and adjudge Schively guilty, what then?

Either way Governor Hay will have won. For Schively is guilty of most flagrant and criminal misconduct, and every Senator knows it. The public knows it. The investigating committee has so found. What position, then, do the Senators assume when they make Schively's fight by impeding the effort to procure his speedy dismissal from office? They could not more effectually make an issue for Governor Hay in the next campaign, of course, than by keeping Schively in office. They could not more easily retire the Schively issue than by responding now to the proper expectation of the state at large that they will do their duty and join with any effort to purify the public service by ejecting summarily from his place an unworthy and dishonest official.

ARTISTIC SPELLING.

According to an account in The Literary Digest, William Archer, the distinguished English critic, has made a serious attempt to answer those opponents of spelling reform who think simplification would destroy the beauty of words. The objective was tersely put by a certain novelist of some repute who told Mr. Archer that "simplification would leave the language bare and bald like the whitewashed wall of a Methodist chapel." The Italian and Spanish languages have both been simplified, so far as their spelling is concerned, to the point of phonetic nakedness, but nobody seems to have noticed any resemblance to Methodist chapels in their printed pages. Printed German has also been greatly simplified in recent years without any striking effect of baldness. One would be tempted to say, not as a champion of either side, but merely as a disinterested spectator, that the opponents of reform must be hard up for an argument when they try to make people believe that simplification would injure the beauty of the language. Like all men who are governed by prejudice rather than reason, they permit themselves to fall into some curious intellectual blunders.

The novelist who talked with Mr. Archer seems to have thought that the English language was the thing he wrote down and which the printers afterward put in type. He mistook the symbol for the thing symbolized. The printed page is not the language, any more than the painting of a tree is a tree. Language exists in speech, not in spelling, and no possible change in the way words are represented can change the words themselves. The word, let us reiterate, is the sound one makes when he speaks, not the mark he makes on paper with his pen. The mark merely represents the word. To one who will try to think clearly on this subject, the fear of the anti-reformers that simplification of spelling would in any way alter the English language becomes glaringly absurd. The only function of spelling is to produce on paper a form which will convey to others an idea of the word. It would be a lunatic's dream to think of catching the word itself and putting it in print, since it is but a series of sound waves. The function of spelling being purely representative, it is natural to think that the more closely it corresponds with what it purports to represent, the better. English spelling, however, has departed widely from this rational correspondence. Very frequently our written symbols bear no relation whatever to the spoken words which they are supposed to picture to the eye.

The real argument against changing the accepted spelling of words in English, or any other language, is economic. A striking alteration of the forms of printed words would involve such inconveniences as a change in the habits of proofreaders and those who write for a living. It would diminish the value of all books which have hitherto been printed. It would also greatly alter the size of all publications, since a thorough reform would eliminate about one-third from the actual contents of each page. It is for reasons like these that simplification of our spelling is difficult in practice, though in theory most people of good sense admit that it would be desirable. The novelist who cherishes our absurd and often ignorant spellings because he thinks they are beautiful, is like persons who object to clearing away rubbish heaps because lovely green weeds have grown upon them. The rubbish may swarm with vermin and breed diphtheria, but that makes no difference to the esthetic objector. Most of the reasons commonly assigned why our spelling should not be corrected are ludicrous on their face. For example, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler is on record with the amazing remark that it would be shocking to depart from the spelling of Shakespeare and Milton. Now, everybody who knows a scrap of the history of English, is aware that we do not spell as Shakespeare did. In fact, if the plays and poems were printed as he spelled them, most of us could not read them. It is much the same with Milton. He simplified written words in all sorts of ways. Our "sovereign," to recall one or two instances, he wrote "sovran," while such forms as "passed" and "blessed" he invariably simplified to "past" and "blest."

All the great poets have been simplifiers of spelling. The craze for incorrect and superfluous letters has never received any countenance from men like Milton and Tennyson. If there had been any beauty in such a form as "though" it is presumable that Tennyson would have discerned it, inasmuch as his eye for beauty in language was at least as keen as any living man's. The artistic part of the word "though" is supposed to lie in the superfluous "ugh" which is appended to it. Certainly, if this curlycue is not ornamental, it would be hard to offer an excuse for retaining it. According to this theory we must admit that "though" is vastly more beautiful than "go" and that if we should spell the latter word "gough" we should enhance the elegance of the English language. Why not beautify "buffalo" by spelling it "buffalough," after this charming analogy? Undoubtedly the time will come when common sense will be applied to spelling in a thoroughgoing way. Perhaps some of us will live to see the English language written phonetically. It is all a matter of fashion. There is no principle whatever involved, except the unfailing tendency of mankind to do things in the easiest way in the long run. The expense of making the alterations is, as we have remarked, the chief hindrance, but when fashion issues her edicts, expense becomes of little moment.

WATER IN COMPETITION WITH RAILS.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, in its decision in the Spokane rate case, rather cleverly avoided the water competition feature of the case. That the Commission has not ceased to recognize that all-powerful regulator of rates is evident, however, in the dismissal of a case brought by a Medford man, claiming overcharge on a shipment from Spokane to Medford. The Commission said:

> The rate to San Francisco is made under circumstances of water competition, and, therefore, may be lower than to intermediate points where such competition does not exist without violating section 4 of the interstate commerce act.

The decision will probably be a surprise to Charles Edward Russell, the distinguished muckraker, who in a recent magazine article on the Spokane rate case denied the existence of water competition as a factor in the making of rail rates.

MR. HARRIMAN'S HEALTH.

Whatever criticism may be made of Mr. Harriman's methods and of his achievements, the course of the New York stock market last week shows in a striking manner the tremendous influence which his personality has on our financial and industrial situation. A report from Vienna to the effect that his ailment was causing increased anxiety was followed by a slump in the price of stocks amounting to millions. A later report that Mr. Harriman was dead caused a decline that was not checked until tens of millions had been sliced off the opening quotations on the leading securities with which he was connected. Denials of the report of his death and also reports of an improvement in his condition caused a speedy recovery in prices, but throughout the week the stock market was keyed to an intense strain almost solely on account of Mr. Harriman's health.

We, of course, had railroads and a stock market long before Mr. Harriman was heard of, and we will have more railroads and more stocks after the news of his death has been officially confirmed. Nevertheless, the experience of the past week has demonstrated most conclusively that the final passing of such a dominant factor in the world of high finance could not take place unattended by a shock that would cause widespread confusion in the world's markets. No holder of any securities which are subject to the whims of the stock market can view with equanimity the possibilities for trouble should Mr. Harriman suddenly pass on to a railroadless land.

Readjustment and a re-establishment of values would come, of course, with the selection of a satisfactory successor for this greatest railroader of the age, but a protracted period of financial hysteria while the big financiers were battling over a successor would be almost a certainty. Until something more definite is known regarding the actual state of Mr. Harriman's health, the men who are carrying stocks on a small margin must expect to suffer extreme nervousness.

FAILURE IN CO-OPERATION.

A laundry at Spokane, started by labor-union money, has gone to the wall, heavily in debt. A similar effort by labor unionists of Portland a few years ago had like result. The trouble is not lack of zeal or willingness to put up money, for in those lines the labor unionist has no peer. In business training he is, ordinarily, deficient. When he gets that he ceases to be one of the "hands."

The great trouble in these co-operative affairs is jealousy. The man who does the hard work—that is, the manual labor—thinks he is as good as the man who uses his head, and wants as much wages, which the other fellow, being manager, thinks is not right, for upon him depends the running of the concern. There being more "hands" than bosses, the cash box suffers in the equalization of wages. The deficiency is then supplied by a mortgage. That is the beginning of the end.

A NEW WATERMELON.

If fame is due the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one shot up before, what shall his meed be who invents a new watermelon? Horace G. Knowles is the name of that mighty benefactor of his kind. Let his praise be sung and his glory hymned. If a parsimonious Congress stingily declines to vote him a golden statue in some circle in Washington, all truly good people will think still worse of that ill-conditioned body than they do now. Mr. Knowles did not actually invent the new watermelon with which he has scattered blessings o'er a smiling land, but he discovered it and brought it home with him from the wilds of far Roumania, where it blooms and ripens unheeded and unsung on the desolate slopes of the weird Carpathians. It is a watermelon to be proud of, because it will attain supreme sapidity on the bleak hills of New England as well as in the sunny fields of Georgia. In Oregon, if reports are true, one need only scatter the seed to the winds and nature will do the rest.

No more painful digging of deep hills to be filled with well-rotted compost. No more vigilance by day and night against the yellow striped fly, the insidious cut worm, the all-devouring beetle and the horrid squash bug. Mr. Knowles' watermelon rears its proud form to heaven and defies all these foes. They may nibble at its sturdy leaves, but they cannot harm them. Nor does this robust vegetable pine at the touch of frost. Drought cannot wither it nor freshets stale. Wherever there is soil it grows and matures its delectable contents, which are said to be both red and yellow of hue. Whether or not the colors are laid down in alternate streaks as they are in desirable bacon is left in doubt by the reports. Perhaps one side of the melon is red and the other side yellow. Perhaps the two hues are patterned off in stars and other artistic designs.

We may rest assured that where nature has made a product as exquisitely desirable in all other respects as this new melon is she has not forsaken harmonious completeness in arranging its colors. It is a great pity that the seed of the alluring importation was not announced in time for this season's planting.

That the Hawthorne-Madison bridge is to be rebuilt at last is a source of gratification to many people, particularly to the large body of East Side residents of the southeastern part of the city. Division of the work between two parties of contractors ought to expedite it, and yet there is danger that one of them will try to fasten any delay that may occur on the other. The Executive Board seems to have been convinced that the discrepancy alleged by Robert Wakefield in his bid for the substructure was an actual error, and allowed him to correct it. For the superstructure a company of young men of Portland, of which Drake C. O'Reilly is president and C. H. Lewis is secretary and treasurer, assisted by engineers and builders from New York, pledges its faith and will execute its bond. This company, which is just making a beginning in Portland, but has strong connections and heavy backing, will have every inducement to make good its claim and position.

According to a Washington dispatch the United States Department of Agriculture says that lack of transportation facilities in Oregon is seriously retarding the development of the beet-sugar industry in this state. As there is only one sugar-beet factory in Oregon and the same number in Washington, where railroad facilities are better, the department might study up some other cause for the lack of interest in the beet industry. There is a possibility that the scarcity and high prices of labor needed in harvesting the sugar beet may have something to do with shortage of the output. The wheat barons of Oregon and Washington can get better returns with less worry over the labor problem by growing wheat and stock than they can get from sugar-beet growing. The labor problem has not yet reached the stage where we can compete with the beet-sugar makers of other countries where labor is easier to secure than it is here.

Says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "The case of the murdered Sigel girl in New York furnishes an object lesson to the whole country. American life and money are far too precious to be wasted in trying to change the leopard's spots or making the heathen anything but a heathen." And he is better as a heathen than as a pretended convert to Christianity. His interest in Christianity is stimulated chiefly by the presence of attractive young white women, whom a misguided sentiment sends to the missions or settlements. It is sexual, not religious or spiritual attraction, that moves him. It is impossible to "convert" a Chinaman; and if it were possible he isn't worth the effort. He is as God made him. Let him alone—especially on that side of his nature. We may trade with him sometimes, but then we should have a warship handy.

Secretary Wilson, who has just returned from a trip through the Western States, tells the Washington reporters that lack of farm hands is the chief cause of high prices of foodstuffs. When he issued his famous March crop report, the Secretary was quite outspoken in his belief that the high prices of wheat were due exclusively to the alleged "corner" which Mr. Patten was charged with perfecting in Chicago. In the light of subsequent developments, and with wheat still hovering around $1.50 per bushel, it is quite apparent that the only "corner" that has been in evidence in connection with the wheat market is that into which Secretary Wilson has been crowded by his own foolish statements and worthless crop reports.

After trying reform under the Lane administration four years, the people of Portland clearly have had a plenty of reform of that particular brand—and, moreover, they find most persons connected with it confessing judgment. Lane goes out of office leaving behind him a far worse sewer scandal than the one he made so much of when he came in; and there's the water board inefficiency and the Executive Board muddles and the police wrangles and the bridge delays and the electric light bother, and pother, and paving tangles, and everything in a heap tumbled over to successors. There will be work enough to straighten things out.

The Oregonian believes that Mayor Simon's appointments, submitted yesterday, will justify public expectation. Out of such material as this a good and efficient administration of the business affairs of the city may be expected. The duties require immense attention to detail and continual vigilance all along the line; but these are men to attend to what they undertake. Portland expects a first-class business administration; and these appointments give assurance of it.

A lot of people had their hay lying in the swath when Colonel Hofer butted in with his great prayer stunt. The cherries around Salem also were taking on a beautiful and healthy red when the deluge came. It is a serious matter to interfere with the arrangements of Divine Providence.

The place known as "Hell," at a river resort above Portland, is flooded by back water from the Columbia River. What has ancient orthodoxy to say to that?

With wool at 20 cents and eggs at 25 cents, there is more profit in poultry, but there is more work. Neither market is overstocked or supplied.

Social intercourse between Chinese men and young white women is not calculated to do any good to either race and should be prevented.

From $3,000,000 to $5,000,000 now is invested in Oregon in automobiles. It is complained that the cost of living has increased.

Colonel Hofer deluged the Willamette Valley with rain by his incessant prayers. Now it's Frank Davey's turn over Harney way.

Home-grown dewberries and raspberries on the market seem to make Irrigon the early spot this year.

WHERE ENGLAND MISSED IT.

Had She Supported Denmark in 1864 All Would Be Different.

PORTLAND, Or., June 26.—(To the Editor.)—Coming just from my homeland, I have read with much interest all that you write about state of things between England and Germany, and I dare say you are right in everything. Certainly the present situation of England is not good, and for every hour it is growing more miserable. But let us look back to the history and see what has caused the present powerlessness of England as to Germany, and let us see if England herself has not caused it, or at least has done nothing to prevent events which have caused it.

In the year 1807, in time of peace, Mr. Stead says, "The English swooped down like pirates upon Copenhagen," and carried off my homeland's big, famous fleet, which was lying unarmed in the harbor. Certainly, England at that time could do nothing but this, as she feared Napoleon would otherwise take possession of the fleet. But instead of giving back Denmark its fleet after the downfall of Napoleon's empire, England kept it, and Denmark had to suffer from the loss of its whole fleet and was growing weaker, while the other Baltic power, Germany, at this time, began to rise again.

In the year 1864 Denmark was attacked by the united German-Austrian army. After an heroic fight, Denmark had to surrender and give up to Germany the town Kiel with its excellent harbor for warships. That England at that time didn't help Denmark, and prevent Germany from taking possession of this harbor, now the English statesmen say, is the greatest mistake of England in the 19th century. Up to that time Germany possessed no warships, but from the conquest of Kiel the German navy has its birth.

In the year 1870 England, without interfering, saw Germany beat France; and since that, Germany has grown to her unexpected power. Now we see the result.

In the year 1807 England took possession of the Danish fleet, and Denmark had to give up the rule of the Baltic, and at the same time Germany began to grow up. In the year 1864 England allowed Germany to take Kiel, now the most important harbor of the Germany marine, and in the years 1870-1871 to beat France so heavily.

As to the possible result of a war between Germany and England, I dare say nothing. But I know that a sea battle in our time is not, as before, a fight between sailor ability, but a regular artillery fight. As to my knowledge of the Germany marine, I dare say that in case of a sea fight between the two navies, certainly a fleet would be sunk down, not "before breakfast," but before sunset, and I think it would not be the German.

H. E. HVALSOE,
Officer of the Intendantur of the Danish Army, 147 Thirteenth street, Portland.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY.

And Marion Has Heavy-Weight Prayers, Too.

Corvallis Times.

Marion County people will get better results from irrigating canals than prayers.

Good Anywhere in Oregon.

Pilot Rock Record.

Pick out a five-acre tract and watch it grow from $100 to $500 per acre after it has been improved by planting apple trees or small fruits.

Perhaps the Galloways Are All Placed.

Newberg Graphic.

A dispatch from Washington, published a few days ago, stated that there were no applicants for the position of Supervisor of the Census for Oregon. Can it be possible that the Galloway family, of Yamhill, has overlooked this little matter?

Tom, Dick and Harry All Good Fellows.

Condon Times.

It has fallen to our lot to have traveled some, both in this broad land and in the older countries, but it has never fallen to our lot to find a more sociable set of fellows than those to be met on the streets of Condon. Man meets his fellows here with a hearty, "Hello" Tom, Dick or Harry as the case may be. It may not be very elegant, but it is social and makes for good fellowship.

Nine Blooms on a Black Calla.

Hillsboro Argus.

The J. Millar place, below Reedville, has a black calla lily plant in its garden that this year raised nine blooms. The bloom is purple and the center piece is as black as the much-mooted black tulip. The black callas are very rare in this section. The Millars sent up a beautiful specimen to Professor Powell, and the stamen was about eight inches in length.

Those Active Barlows.

Gooseberry Cor. Ione Proclaimer.

Charles Barlow, Louis and Vivian Brown made a new baseball diamond on Mr. Ralston's land last week.

Frank and Charles Barlow have made a new cover for their cistern.

The Barlow girls called on Effie Brown Thursday.

Charles Barlow and mother went to Ione Saturday.

Effie Brown and Edna Carroll were visiting with Mrs. Barlow Saturday.

Mr. Barlow visited Mrs. Holmes Monday.

Asparagus, Mr. Taft's Favorite Dish.

Washington, D. C., Dispatch.

Mrs. Payne Whitney has gone into asparagus raising on the estate near Thomasville, Ga., of Colonel Oliver Payne, her husband's uncle. The Whitneys pass several months there each year for the benefit of their eldest daughter, Joan Hay Whitney, who is frail.

Mrs. Whitney saw an opportunity for profit in asparagus, and now has three acres laid out with it. She intends to extend the plot until it covers ten acres, and then will ship to the New York market. This Summer she is making shipments to Washington. Mrs. Whitney also cultivates roses and sells them in the Capital.

Asparagus raising has also become a hobby of Mrs. George Vanderbilt, who personally superintends work on six acres at Biltmore, the Vanderbilt estate in North Carolina. Mrs. Tillman, wife of the peppery Senator, has sold asparagus from five acres this season. She sent a large shipment as a gift to the White House, and Mrs. Taft wrote a note of thanks, saying asparagus was her husband's favorite dish.

A Questionable Policy.

The Spectator (Portland.)

The Spectator doubts the utility of trying to convert the Chinese to Christianity—either in our own or in his country. Probably he is convertible; but we desire to say as plainly as we can that ninety and nine Americanized, baptized, Christianized Chinese will not recompense the world for the murdered body and soul of poor Elsie Sigel. We waste too much money and blood and too many souls in seeking to Christianize peoples that are as well off without our efforts.

The Soft Answer, Etc.

Atchison Globe.

What a convincing sign of weakness it is in the other fellow to show signs of irritation.

JULY 4 AS A CHILDREN'S DAY

Should Be a Festival and Not a Carnival of Noise.

Luther Halsey Gulick, in World's Work for July.

Springfield has, by constructive rather than restrictive measures, won her day and is winning her city consciousness. The children have their fireworks, but they have them under safe conditions. And they have what is better than fireworks. Throughout the day, they are occupied so busily by things which are more interesting than fireworks that the firecracker has slipped back into its normal and legitimate place. It is not enough to restrict the use of explosives. "Thou shalt not," has its place, but its place is limited as compared with the place of the custom we have been considering.

Any community can save its children and its day by such measures as these. What is needed are leaders and united action. An individual acting alone is helpless. Let a few earnest men and women unite and form an Independence day committee. Secure the co-operation of the city authorities and such general civic bodies as boards of trade, chambers of commerce, merchants' associations, and, having the co-operation of the school board, the park board, the police board, they will have relatively little difficulty in finding suitable plans, or in securing the relatively small amount of money that is needed. In many places, the city government itself is about ready for action, as is indicated by personal correspondence which I have already in my possession from the Mayors of many American cities. The daily press can be relied on, for none realizes better than newspaper people the damage done, and the good which has been missed by failure to use the day as one in which to arouse the civic consciousness.

Fourth of July does not stand alone in presenting an opportunity for community recreation and the celebration of the festival spirit. We have many holidays and other occasions which demand social expression, but the Fourth of July gives us the most dramatic point of attack. The need is so obvious, the solution is already so well in sight, that this is the first and most important position to attack. If it is true that we remember those we play with more fully, and feel more at one with them, than we do with those who are associated with us in the domain of daily labor, then it seems as if it were also true that there is no way in which a community can be brought together and made to feel and act as a unit so well as by playing together. It is quite natural that this should be so, for we can choose those with whom we play to a far greater extent than we can those with whom we work. Further than this, we can choose what we shall play far more readily than how we shall work. That is, freedom is greater in play than in work.

Now, playing together means a carnival or a festival. The festival differs from the carnival in that the festival is usually a representation of some idea as such, or to celebrate some occasion which has meaning, while the carnival is, in the main, a day of joy-making of any kind whatever. The festival lends itself to civic purposes, to community action, and to art form better than does the carnival. We, of all the peoples of the earth, have no genuine festivals. And we need them because we are becoming a nation of cities. And, if our cities are to become wholesome, we must understand each other, like each other, and have things to do together which shall express our common feelings, our common ideals, and our social community.

It Is Abominable.

Indianapolis News.

It is not possible to acquit those Americans who permit and encourage young girls to work in Chinese Sunday schools. This is dangerous for two reasons. In the first place those who are taught are grown men, usually much older than the woman teaching them, men of all varieties of character, and often of the lowest caste. It is amazing that ministers and mission leaders should think of permitting such a thing. In the second place, the Chinese have a moral code, particularly as related to the sex question, which is very different from that which prevails in this country. The difference between the two civilizations is profound.

Celebrating July 4.

Independence day, falling this year on Sunday, will be celebrated variously in Oregon. Dates claimed by many cities and towns are as follows:

Astoria, July 3-5.	Hood River, July 5.
Bandon, July 5.	Jefferson, July 5.
Bend, July 3.	La Grande, July 5.
Burns, July 3.	Lebanon, July 3.
Corvallis, July 5.	Monument, July 2-3.
Cottage Grove, July 2-5	Newport, July 5.
Dallas, July 2 and 3.	Pendleton, July 3.
Drain, July 3.	Prairie City, July 5-7.
Echo, July 3.	Prineville, July 5.
Eugene, July 2-5.	Roseburg, July 5.
Forest Grove, July 1-5.	Sandy, July 3.
Fossil, July 3.	Silverton, July 3.
Gladstone, July 5.	Stayton, July 3.
Gresham, July 3.	Tillamook, July 5.
Hamilton, July 2 and 3.	Tygh Valley, July 5-6.
Heppner, July 2 and 3.	Union, July 3.
Hillsboro, July 3-5.	

O. U. Kidder Startles the Court.

Chicago Dispatch.

Applying for a warrant in the Peoria, Ill., County Court, a man was asked his name by the judge and replied, "O. U. Kidder." "Now, cut out the kidding. This is no place for foolishness," said the judge. "I told you my name was O. U. Kidder," repeated the visitor, "and I'm not kidding, either. I want a warrant." Then the judge saw through it.

Fire Engine Horses Save Children.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

In responding to an alarm of fire at Harrisburg, Pa., in order to avoid striking a group of women and children at a corner, the driver of an engine forced his horses through a big plateglass window in a store, and the animals were led out of the building by the rear entrance.

Rescue of Chinese "Converts."

New York Sun.

It would seem to be in order for philanthropic citizens to establish a society for the rescue and salvation of workers for the rescue and salvation of Chinese "converts" to Christianity.

Spring in the Blood.

T. A. Daly in the Catholic Standard and Times.

If, when Spring is in the blood
("Tis of Irish blood I'm speakin'),
All the peace o' bachelorhood
Glad ye'd be to be forsakin'
For the hope o' joy that lies
In a pair o' sparklin' eyes
Wishful to possess ye,
Take your chance o' paradise
An' heaven bless ye!

If, when Spring is in the blood,
Grosser appetites awaken,
An' ye feel a thirst that could,
Maybe, bear a little slakin'—
If to clear your throat o' dust
Mountain-dew will ease ye, just—
Shure, I'd never chide ye,
Take your tipple if ye must,
An' Wisdom guide ye!

If, when Spring is in the blood
Weary on your toil, ye're wishin'
You could wander through the wood
Where the other lads are fishin';
If such sport as ye could know
Where the Irish rivers flow
Waters here can lend ye,
Seize your day o' pleasure; go,
An' Luck attend ye!

If, when Spring is in the blood,
Play-boy pranks nor eyes o' woman
Stir your heart-strings as they should,
Faith, ye're somethin' less than human!
What ye need's another birth;
Though, indeed, 'twould not be worth
All the trouble to remake ye,
Fit for neither heaven nor earth,
The Divil take ye!

IS NEW YORK CITY DEMOCRATIC?

Election Figures for Twelve Years Show Violent Changes.

New York Sun.

Is the metropolis of New York, the city made up of the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond, normally Democratic in municipal elections? The foregoing query has been put forth by organization politicians, Republicans and Democrats, and by the Independents. The Republicans have answered in the affirmative, Timothy L. Woodruff estimating that "in a straight party contest" the Democratic majority is not far below 120,000. The estimates of other Republican organization men as to the city's normal Democratic majority in straight contests vary from 75,000 to 100,000. It is apparent that these estimates have been announced at this time to justify the hopes of Mr. Woodruff, Herbert Parsons and Robert C. Morris, president of the Republican Club, for fusion with the principal anti-Democratic forces.

It has been demonstrated beyond dispute that our elections in New York City are essentially local in their character and that influences observed in National and state contests have not prevailed in our municipal campaigns. Recall the vote of the territory now Greater New York in the National campaign of 1908. It was as follows:

Counties—	McKinley.	Bryan.
New York	156,559	135,359
Kings	109,135	76,882
Queens	18,694	11,990
Richmond	6,170	4,452
Totals	290,358	228,673

McKinley's majority in the city was 61,685.

Yet in the following year in the triple candidate campaign for Mayor of the city the combined vote of Benjamin F. Tracy and Seth Low was but 253,353, or 37,005 below that of McKinley in the preceding year. On the other hand the total vote of Robert A. Van Wyck, the successful candidate for Mayor, was 233,997, or 5334 more than Bryan received in the preceding year. Van Wyck's plurality in the entire city was 82,467, or 20,772 above that of McKinley in the preceding year. The official vote of the Mayoralty contest in 1897 was as follows:

Boroughs—	Tracy.	Van Wyck.	Low.
Manhattan and The Bronx	55,834	143,666	77,210
Brooklyn	37,611	76,185	65,656
Queens	5,639	9,275	5,876
Richmond	2,779	4,871	2,798
Totals	101,813	233,997	151,540

Further evidence to the effect that New York City elections in municipal campaigns are inherently of local character is supplied in the returns for the National election of 1900. In that year the result in the city was as follows:

Boroughs—	McKinley.	Bryan.
Manhattan and Bronx	153,033	181,799
Brooklyn	108,985	106,231
Queens	12,341	14,740
Richmond	6,047	6,151
Totals	280,406	308,921

Bryan's majority in the city in that year was 28,515, and yet in 1901 in the Mayoralty contest between Seth Low, Republican fusion, and Edward M. Shepard, Democrat, Low's majority was 31,636, as follows:

Boroughs—	Low.	Shepard.
Manhattan and Bronx	162,298	126,631
Brooklyn	114,625	88,858
Queens	13,118	13,679
Richmond	6,772	6,009
Totals	296,813	265,177

Here was a clearly defined contest between a straight Democratic candidate and a Republican fusion candidate, showing almost a complete reversal of the National result in the city the year before.

What was the result of the straight Mayoralty contest in 1903 between Low, renominated, and George B. McClellan? A complete turning over of the result of two years before. Where Low in 1901 won by 31,636, McClellan's majority over Low in 1903 was 62,696, as follows:

Boroughs—	Low.	McClellan.
Manhattan and Bronx	132,178	158,681
Brooklyn	101,251	102,569
Queens	11,960	17,074
Richmond	6,697	6,458
Totals	252,086	314,782

Continuing the mathematical evidence that there is a marked difference between the results as to National and municipal elections in the city, it is only necessary to observe that Alton B. Parker carried the city over Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 by 37,406, or by 25,290 fewer votes than McClellan received in 1903, and yet what was the result of the city election in 1905?

Boroughs—	Ivins.	McClellan.	Hearst.
Manhattan and Bronx	64,289	140,264	123,292
Brooklyn	61,192	68,778	84,835
Queens	7,213	13,228	13,706
Richmond	4,499	6,127	3,092
Totals	137,193	228,397	224,925

While McClellan's majority in 1903 was 62,696, his plurality in 1905 was 3472. It was in that year that William R. Hearst came within an ace of destroying the Democratic city organization; yet McClellan's vote in 1905 was only 86,285 below his vote of 1903, while Ivins' vote was 114,893 below that of Low in 1903, indicating that Hearst made far greater inroads upon the Republican vote than he did upon the Democratic vote.

For the information of all concerned, and with no idea that the vote for Taft and Bryan in the city last November will have a bearing upon the city election next November, the vote is here given for future reference:

Boroughs—	Taft.	Bryan.
Manhattan and Bronx	154,958	160,276
Brooklyn	119,789	96,667
Queens	19,420	20,252
Richmond	6,831	7,374
Totals	300,998	284,569

Taft's majority was therefore 16,429, McKinley and Taft being the only Republican candidates for President to carry the City of New York.

Mr. Woodruff's estimate that New York City has a normal Democratic majority of 120,000 in a straight contest is not supported by the election returns of the last dozen years, nor do the actual figures sustain the conservative estimate of from 75,000 to 100,000 advanced by other Republicans.

There is a normal majority at all times. It is usually scored for the party or combination which nominates the best candidates, the candidates who appeal to the best ideas of the voters of New York City, but no man can put it in figures at this time.

FUTILITY OF CHINESE MISSIONS.

Why Are American Girls Permitted to Invade the Underworld?

Chicago Journal.

One is tempted to ask whether this business of missions among the Chinese is worth while, since the history of the movement shows that the Chinaman is more likely to convert the mission worker to opium than the mission worker is to convert the Chinaman to Christianity.

Sir Robert Hart, for many years in charge of the Chinese customs, on behalf of the British government, and probably better acquainted with China and the Chinese than any other white man, has made the frank statement that, no matter what missionaries may believe and say, not one Chinaman has ever been really converted to Christianity.

He contends that the sole object of attending English-speaking schools is to learn English and to pick up foreign methods, and that John Chinaman's pretense of conversion is pretense and nothing more.

There are more white heathen in New York than all the Chinamen missions will ever convert, here or in China. And such girls as Elsie Sigel can find better employment for their energies among the children of the American poor than among the almond-eyed devils of the Chinese hells, infested by the very worst of the underworld.