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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1909.

"THE LIMIT" ON LIQUOR LEGISLATION.

The present limit of legislation, for restriction of sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors, has been reached in New Jersey. The act is more drastic than absolute prohibition; which never hitherto have means been found to enforce. The law of New Jersey has a merit, however. It doesn't throw the whole blame on the seller, but holds to responsibility also the buyer and consumer.

The law of New Jersey, enacted at the session of the Legislature that ended recently, bears a high-sounding title, namely—"an Act for the Prevention of Drunkenness." What could be more "catchy"? The title is a charming one. Now, let us see how "drunkenness" is to be "prevented."

The law provides for appointment of a "Board of Protectors" in each municipal subdivision of the state, whose business it is to be to investigate the habits and conduct of the citizens within the jurisdiction, keep a record of the same and refuse to allow the sale of intoxicants to any person who, in the opinion of the Board, is a drunkard or might become a drunkard. This, evidently, is an advance on the office of the "censor morum," of Roman antiquity.

The New York Tribune, which has subsided from the vigor of the days of old into a very mild kind of newspaper—still, however, representing excellent ideas, says: "It is obvious that while this law in theory and intent may be most excellent, in practice it is easily susceptible of gross abuse and, indeed, is substantially incapable of application without offense. If the members of the board of protectors were endowed with infallible discretion as well as unimpeachable impartiality, and if they were able to command the entire public confidence in all their acts, they might apply the law to the great benefit of all the community. But being merely human they are confronted with an impossible job. Even habitual drunkards resent being publicly advertised as such and being excluded from the privilege or the right of purchasing their favorite beverages at public houses, which, by the terms of their license are bound to sell to all orderly applicants. But thus to deal with a man who is not a drunkard at all, but is merely, in the opinion of two or three of his neighbors, likely to become a drunkard, is certain to arouse a storm. There are those who believe that any man who uses intoxicating liquors is likely to become a drunkard, and if a board of protectors was composed of such men it might forbid the sale of liquor to any one in the community." Certainly. But if a community desires enforcement of prohibition, here is the opportunity. Let a board, consisting of the "best" men and the "best" women of each and every community, sit in judgment on the habits and character of every citizen. This will be "so nice!"

Some, however, of the more perverse of our people may not like it. But their feelings or prejudices ought not to be permitted to stand in the way of reform. In our Southern states, more than in others, prohibition during recent years has been making great progress—in the laws, however, rather than in fact. Still, there is a restive feeling, under the restriction; and while it is thought a great thing to "keep licker from the nigger," the proposal to introduce the New Jersey system in the South awakens apprehensions. The Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser says: "To put it in the power of two or three men to say that any citizen of a community is likely to become a drunkard, and thus to empower those two or three men to thus place a stigma upon any citizen is going a little beyond any freak legislation that has yet been enacted."

Again: "The wave of intolerance, fanaticism and law mania sweeps on, and the aggregation of zealots, fanatics or paid advocates have their way. It is a strange condition of affairs, but it seems impossible that it can last. Some day reason will resume its sway and people will wonder what evil spirit had possession of them. May a just and kindly Providence speed the time!"

More militant is the Norfolk Virginian. That earnest journal protests with new vigor against further introduction of "Puritan intolerance" in the South. These extreme methods of prohibition, it reminds its fellow countrymen, are among the "isms" of New England origin. "The Southerners of today are taking up with the wornout fads and heresies of New England as greedily as the belles of a far Western mining town snatch at the fashions which played out in New York four years sooner. We are running madover experiments which have not even the recommendation of being new, which have been tried by our neighbors and found altogether wanting in either pleasantness or profit to soul or body. What's the matter? Are we so abjectly vanquished that we must accept the political standards which our former conquerors are abandoning? And cover our social deformities with their cast-off clothing?" This follows:

The New England of today has reacted from social fanaticism as it did earlier from religious intolerance, and of all the isms it cherished and propagated a half century since only that of commercialism retains its hold on the popular mind. Negrophilism is no longer epidemic; a sporadic case here and there but serves as a reminder of worse days. Free-lovism had its little day, as did communism, and died of its own corruption. Prohibition likewise won victories on paper and planted its flag over legislative strongholds and imprinted its watchwords on statute books; but that, too, is now a dead letter along with a goodly bunch of other sumptuary laws and even in Maine, the home and grave of Neal Dow, the interdict against the traffic in alcohol is as openly and universally disregarded as though it had no existence.

Perhaps there isn't much in this, but "interesting reading." But it's interesting reading, sure enough. We believe, however, that perfect sobriety never can be enforced by simple methods—even by the New Jersey plan. The way to do it is to command and decree the destruction of all the fruits and products of the earth from which alcoholic liquors may be brewed or distilled. Alcohol is a product of fermentation or distillation of vegetable products. The sure way will be to prohibit the cultivation or growth of every thing from which alcohol may be developed. Prohibition, therefore, in its ultimates, must include wheat, oats, maize, barley, rice, grapes, apples, peaches and potatoes; and then, unfortunately, there is wood alcohol—which the prohibitionists would, however, say was best of all because it will kill quickest. This is a troublesome business.

PREJUDGING HIS CASE?

Of course it is absurd for the attorney of Insurance Commissioner Schively to assume or declare that certain State Senators are disqualified from acting as judges in his trial because they had previously voted to abolish his office. Schively has no vested right to his office, nor has any other officeholder. If a Legislature sees fit to abolish any office, it must be assumed that it is acting for the public benefit, and there can be and should be no appeal. If the right of an individual to office shall be held to be superior to the right of the public, either to maintain or do away with such an office, whichever it pleases to do, we shall indeed be at the mercy of the office-holding class, and there would be no end to exploitation of the public by the job-hunters and job-holders.

Schively has with extraordinary tenacity resisted every effort either to dismiss or to impeach him. He did not want to be disgraced by summary removal—or rather by having his job taken away from him—because he claimed he was "entitled to a trial." But now, when it is proposed to try him, he pleads for time and denies the right of his judges to proceed, because many of them have "prejudged" his case. How is it possible to avoid prejudging the case of any criminal who fights inch by inch, by every technical art and device known to resourceful and adroit lawyers, the orderly procedure of the law? Is the Schively defense following the methods of an accused person conscious of his own virtue and innocence, or of one who fears nothing so much as complete investigation and impartial trial?

GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION POLICY.

In these times when paternalistic theory is rampantly for extension of governmental functions over the proper realms of private and personal endeavor, it is refreshing to see officers like Secretary Ballinger holding steadfastly to the old landmarks and resisting the new-fangled doctrines.

Irrigation work belongs properly to the category of private effort; the Government, however, for good reasons seven years ago began an extensive irrigation plan. The purpose was and is yet not to absorb as many irrigation projects as possible, but to prove by actual tests the success of irrigation on an extensive scale, so as to inspire private capital with courage in this worthy endeavor. The public projects were to be undertaken with ultimate financial success always in view; no project was to be begun unless it appeared to the Secretary of the Interior practical and advisable from a monetary viewpoint and the expenditures from the land fund were to be returned to that fund by payments of the settlers who entered the irrigated land. Every project had that ultimate end in view, so that each might be an example to private capital as a successful financial investment and point the way.

This purpose of the Government is plain in the reclamation act of 1902 and has been plain in all the projects that have been taken up. Yet a lot of persons have imagined that the Government has launched itself on a scheme of wholesale irrigation; of supplanting private enterprise and of taking up every possible project, without regard to its practicability as a financial investment.

This is far from the truth. The Government could not have launched itself on the reclamation policy if that had been the object. Criticism of Secretary Ballinger from persons whose pet schemes have not been taken up will avail little. There is not public money enough for every field that invites the Government; besides it is not the Government's policy that there should be. Additional funds could be advantageously expended, however, where small private projects later may obstruct those of larger possibilities. This is a matter that will have to be looked after when there shall be larger means to dispose of it.

Mr. Ballinger clearly set forth the attitude of the Government in his speech in Spokane last Wednesday, before the National Irrigation Congress. He remarked that the reclamation service has been quite successful in drawing private capital into irrigation enterprises by the example of its success. Said he:

While the Government has invested over $50,000,000 in irrigation works, many times that amount has been invested since the passage of the reclamation act by private enterprise, and it is safe to say that a large portion of these private investments have resulted from Government example and encouragement, and let me say here that it has not been and is not the policy of the National Government in the administration of this act to hinder or interfere with the investment of private capital in the construction of irrigation works, but rather to lend it encouragement.

This is particularly true in reference to irrigation under the Carey act in the various states. I am not a believer in the Government entering into competition with legitimate private enterprise. Its functions under the reclamation act are not of this character, and I am sure that when private enterprise has done what it can, there will still be thousands upon thousands of acres of public lands reclaimable only by Government aid. The Western States should, therefore, be very jealous of the perpetuity of the reclamation fund and of its constant increase.

The charge that the present administration of the Interior Department is relinquishing water power sites, for the benefit of corporations and speculators—voiced by ex-Governor Pardee of California—Mr. Ballinger did not deem worthy of reply in the convention and when that noisy personage began his harangue, Mr. Ballinger left the hall. Where is the Government letting go of water power sites, for the benefit of greedy grabbers? Pardee is a discredited noise-maker, once elected Governor in his state, by the accident of a small plurality and next time repudiated. Ever since, his claim to notoriety has been the fact that he once happened to be Governor of California. Pardee's talk is the kind that has been credited to Pinchot and been a source of alleged unpleasantness between him and Ballinger. If Pinchot is to continue a great man he will have to cut out the company of Pardee.

In our own state the Government has not surrendered to grabbers of water power. But a short time ago, there was loud popular protest against the Interior Department's alleged refusal to let go of water power sites so that a railroad might run up the Deschutes. The matter seems to have been adjusted satisfactorily, so far as that difficulty went, and the Government's interests have been amply protected.

A coterie of land "reformers" has been endeavoring to run the Government's policy, with occasional success. Futile land-fraud prosecutions, wholesale withdrawals of land from entry and stoppage of land office business have been incidents of their success. Secretary Ballinger seems to be filling a long-felt want in reforming the reformers. Further, he is holding the Government to its duty in irrigation work, against an influence that is striving to supplant private irrigation with a socialistic programme.

IT IS A NATURAL APPREHENSION.

The Napoleonic scare in England is one hundred years old, and more. It is survival of this scare, chiefly, that awakens apprehension about the growth of the German navy. But there are other incidents. It is to her insular position that England owes her preservation; for could continental armies have reached her there would be no British Empire; there would have been no development of English institutions or spread of the English language throughout the world; no United States of America.

But besides the Napoleonic fright there were many preceding events of similar kind; hence sequences of history, all tending to bind the British judgment to the idea that the only defense of the British Empire is a navy strong enough to command the sea against all comers. The Romans, so far as we know, were the first invaders of Britain. Then, after four or five centuries the Angles and Jutes and Saxons. Later the Danes, and later still the French Normans. Then for five centuries there was no alarming attempt till that of the Spanish Armada of 1588. This was the catastrophe to Spain that broke her power, much the same as the Russian campaign of 1812 broke the power of Napoleon. But during the whole career of Napoleon England was in mortal terror, for her very existence. There was reason.

This dread, supported by that of the former experience of 2000 years, makes England, head and heart of the British Empire, whose offshoots are colonies and insular and continental possessions are scattered throughout the world, nervous, extremely nervous, at the mere suggestion that any power might become strong enough to attack her successfully at sea. Victory over her navy and entrance of a foreign army into London would destroy the British Empire and change the whole course of human history. Hence the British government is renewing and increasing its efforts in construction of vessels of war.

THE LABOR DIFFERENTIAL.

This year, for the first time in the history of the port, practically every bushel of wheat in Portland territory is available for shipment from Tacoma at no greater charge for transportation than from Portland. The recent traffic agreement by which the Harriman lines gain access to Puget Sound enables Portland exporters, if they so desire, to demand delivery of grain at Tacoma in preference to Portland. The Portland exporters are unwilling to handle this business from Tacoma if it is possible to handle it at Portland. This city through the Port of Portland Commission has expended about $2,000,000 in deepening the river so that ships can enter and depart with no greater delays than are experienced on Puget Sound. The Port of Portland in response to the demands of the shipowners, has taken up the work of supplying pilots free of charge.

In every detail of the business, with a single exception, Portland has equalized charges to conform with those in effect at Tacoma, our principal competitor on Puget Sound. That one handicap against which we have been struggling for years, is an arbitrary and unwarranted differential of from 15 per cent to 25 per cent more for dock labor than is paid at Tacoma. Not only has labor demanded from 5 cents to 10 cents more per hour from Portland, but, even at the extra cost in Portland, employers have long been unable to secure the same efficiency that is shown by the lower-priced labor on Puget Sound. To be specific, the books of two of the largest shippers at both Portland and Tacoma, for the year ending June 30, 1909, showed that the cost per ton for the year in handling grain at Tacoma was within a fraction of 10 cents less than for the same work at Portland. This means a saving of about $300 per ship for the exporters, if they do their business on Puget Sound.

Not until this season has it been possible to ship grain from O. R. & N. points through Tacoma. This year the exporters are in a position to disregard the demands of Portland labor, for they can order their ships to Tacoma and load all of the wheat at that port with greatly increased profit to themselves. Being strictly business men and only human, they may be expected to load the grain at that point unless this labor differential against Portland is removed. It is stated that one more effort will be made to keep the business here by offering the Tacoma wage scale. If this is refused, there will be very little wheat shipping done from Portland this season.

This is a very serious matter. It is one which concerns not only the handful of men who have been maintaining this labor differential against the port, and who, of course, can follow the grain to Puget Sound and handle it there at the wage scale declined here, but it also concerns every taxpayer in the city. We have removed all differentials laid against the port by nature, and cannot well afford to permit our prestige to be destroyed by one placed against it by a few waterfront laborers. There has been too much temporizing on this matter in the past, and the issue must be met fairly and fearlessly at this time. The exporters who are making an effort to remove this handicap, which may prove so costly to Portland, should have the united support of every good citizen and taxpayer who has assisted in removing other differentials from the port.

If old Nimrod keeps in communication with his disciples on earth, he ought to be proud of a crowd of them who were rusticating at Duncan Springs, Cal. A forest fire swept over the hills and drove out large numbers of wild animals. The terror-stricken animals immediately became targets for the hunters, and, according to the news dispatch, "for several hours the hills rang with the crash of musketry as though a pitched battle were in progress, and when the fusillade was over at dusk fourteen fine bucks and a brown bear were numbered among the slain." This kind of sportsmanship must be fully as exciting and interesting as shooting harmless monkeys. There is still a large streak of the primitive man in evidence when helpless animals are shot down simply to satisfy a lust to kill.

Mr. James J. Jeffries, on arrival at Plymouth yesterday, was very much surprised to learn that his alleged representative had signed articles for a fight between Jeffries and Jackson. The white bruiser says that no one has authority to make any arrangements in his absence from the country. This news will not be at all surprising. It is much less than a year since Mr. Jeffries began talking about regaining the lost championship, and it would be contrary to all precedent for a prize-fighter to waive his rights to talk for two or three years before he actually made a match. Still Jeffries' aversion to meeting Johnson promptly, if he intends to meet him at all, will confirm the lurking suspicion that he may be afraid of "Mistah Johnsing."

Several newspapers in various parts of the country are distressed about the Lincoln cent. They fear that the practice of stamping the images of our celebrated men on coins may issue in "imperialism." But, as the Washington Star says, "if the Lincoln cent is a precedent, the American coinage may acquire a historical value which heretofore has been lacking." That is, the features of our eminent men may thus be preserved for future years, when most other memorials shall have been lost. As for "imperialism," coinage is no cause of it, but only an incident of it. With us, the state, not the head of the state, is the sovereign.

Since it is apparent that a retaining wall will have to be built on the south side of Lone Fir Cemetery for the protection of graves along the embankment, caused by the grading of East Stark street, it would be well for the responsibility in the case to be fixed and the work begun without delay. The first Fall rains will make sad havoc with this embankment and later rains will result in washing out many graves along the street line unless this wall is built in season. Health as well as sentiment is a factor in this matter. The building of the wall should not be delayed.

Thaw doesn't yet obtain discharge from the asylum for the insane. Just as well. Probably he is no more insane than he has been all his life. But his life has been most disreputable, and it was a lucky thing for him that there was the excuse of insanity to protect him from conviction of murder. Even this plea of insanity would not have prevailed but for the proof of the unspeakably vile character of the man whom he killed.

For the fourth time, last Saturday, the Georgia Senate voted down the income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution. The vote was nearly two to one—Senator Burwell, voicing the opposition, said that if he could save to Georgia and to other states the right of levying an income tax instead of surrendering it to the National Government he would be willing to "retire into political oblivion."

If those persons who are shrieking so loudly against "nominations by assembly" would allow themselves a little respite from shrieking, they would be able to learn right soon that such nominations or suggestions can be but initiatory and tentative acts, subject to acceptance or rejection by the party voters, in the legal primaries. It is not proposed to "set aside" the primary at all.

The contract has been let for double-tracking the Northern Pacific between Kalama and Tacoma. Up to a late hour last night, no attempt had been made by either Porter Brothers, Twohy Brothers or anyone else to interfere with the work. In this respect, the proposed task is not at all similar to any other big piece of railroad work now under construction in the Pacific Northwest.

Ex-Mayor Lane is reported from Grants Pass as wearing "a straw hat, ordinary harvesting jumper and a pair of jean pants that gave him the appearance of a genuine farmer." Dr. Withycombe, the other farmer candidate for Governor, should make due note of this uniform when he takes the stump next year in quest of the farmer vote.

The writer of one of the "six best sellers" is lost in the purser of the Tillamook liner Argo, who tells of running into a school of smelt a mile long by half a mile wide, packed so solid that gulls and other fowl stood on the fish and gorged until they fell over from sheer inability to devour more.

The Flathead lottery began its drawing yesterday. It was largely attended by "flat-heads" from all over the United States, who were unaware that they could get more for their money by actual purchase of lands in Oregon, Washington and Idaho than they could win at the lottery.

Perhaps if the parents of Biddle, the boy burglar, and his child wife, had spanked them, instead of giving their consent to marriage last February, the youth would not be obliged now to break rock for a year at Kelly Butte.

The Utah Agricultural College is "flirting" with Professor C. I. Lewis, the horticulturalist of the Corvallis College. Oregon would better keep Professor Lewis. He belongs to the work here.

A Lane County man has sixteen children living and cannot readily recall their middle names. If he possessed that ability he could qualify for the chair of mnemonics at the county seat.

Chief No Shirt, of the Umatillas, is going to Washington on official business, and like the true buck that he is, will leave Mrs. Sans Brassiere on the reservation.

Let no one imagine that those National Undertakers, who are to meet here next month, are not a jovial lot of fellows.

THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE.

Direct Primaries as They Are Viewed in the Various States.

Kansas City Journal.

When the primary law became operative it did away with party effectiveness by delegating to candidates almost the entire control of the party organization and declarations. Men who could afford to make a canvass of the state were nominated on the Republican ticket and after that they formulated their own platform, which contained anything and everything that might appeal to voters. As most of the planks expressed merely individual preferences or bids for Democratic or Populistic support, the rank and file of the organization had to swallow all sorts of anti-Republican declarations.

A Delusion.

Boston Herald.

Eastern States, including Massachusetts, can have the benefit of the Kansas experiment. Before they indulge in the folly of direct primaries, the voters can go to their party caucuses and elect representative delegates to the conventions. The vital flaw in the convention system is not in the conventions, but in the caucuses, and the utter neglect of duty there by the great majority of voters. Wherever party organization is essential or desirable in political action the representative convention is the most simple and accurate means of exerting popular power.

Governor Hughes' Model.

Albany Evening Journal.

The Kansas City Journal says that the thinking element of both the Republican and Democratic parties concede that the primary in Kansas is working unsatisfactorily. "About the only ones who are still enthusiastic for the primary fetich," it says, "are the politicians who hold office under an administration early committed to the system." The law was forced upon the state by a semi-Populistic Legislature without due consideration or specific authority from the people.

One of the complaints against the direct primary law in Kansas is its sapping of party effectiveness. After those who could afford it made the canvass and secured places on the party ticket they formulated their own platform, as they were permitted to do under the law. They put in everything that might attract voters, and it is said that most of the planks were appeals to Populistic support. Through the direct primary law the Republicans were compelled to swallow all sorts of anti-Republican declarations if they desired to support their party candidates.

It will be remembered that Governor Hughes looked to the Kansas law for some of the ideas embodied in the Hinman-Green bill which the Legislature of this state defeated last Winter and upon which the Governor is preparing to "appeal to the people." That platform feature appeals to the direct primary advocates in this state. It was from a beneficiary of the Kansas law that Governor Hughes secured one of his strongest indorsements last Winter.

Improper Control of Elections Is Increased.

North American Review.

The system of direct or primary nomination of candidates for office involves substantially the same principle as the "initiative" and is open to the same objections. . . . This system has been adopted in many of the states, and in practice has led to some results quite different from what its advocates claim for it. It has become apparent that only seekers after office become candidates for nominations—the office no longer seeks the man. The system destroys all party organization. Political policies and principles are entirely lost sight of in the confusion of individual ideas. It affords no opportunity for consideration of the fitness of candidates. Each candidate, whether qualified or not, determines that question for himself. . . .

If there are more than two candidates, as is usually the case, the almost inevitable result is that the candidate selected is the choice of but a minority, and as the candidates multiply and the range of selection increases a correspondingly reduced minority may foist upon the party a candidate who may be altogether objectionable to a large majority.

When the system is extended over a large territory and is used for the selection of candidates for the higher offices it becomes practically impossible for the mass of voters to make any intelligent selection, while the opportunities for improper control of elections are far greater than under the convention system.

The cost of conducting a campaign for the higher offices, even if the expenses are confined to legitimate purposes, has proved to be so great that all but very wealthy men and those with powerful machines are practically excluded.

These defects and weaknesses are gradually becoming apparent as the system is put in actual operation, and after a time it will inevitably be condemned as heartily as it is now commended.

Prohibition in the South.

Here is a paragraph from a correspondent of Harper's Weekly, who has journeyed through many Southern states:

On the main line of the Southern railway from Washington to New Orleans there is not a town or city in which a man can buy a glass of beer legitimately. But if the train tarries for half an hour almost anywhere he can refresh himself and take something along to refresh himself again before reaching his destination. From his seat in the Pullman car he can see hundreds of trucks at every way station filled with kegs, cases, demijohns and jugs; for the shipment of liquor into the desert is the big industry today. The same traveler, if his name is John Smith, can find a package of any size in almost every express office. As most of it is shipped C. O. D., he can pay, sign and take it. The conditions are far from ideal, but the saloon has been voted out by the people or the Legislature without regard to consequences. Meanwhile there is the usual amount of drinking on the part of those who can afford it and who know how. Seeing the opportunity which would be offered, brewers began to work day and night to supply the demand for near-beer, which is supposed to contain less than 2 per cent of alcohol. But in the near-beer saloons, almost without exception, the real article is sold. Practically every dealer has a United States license, and most of them will mix a drink or whisky or serve it straight.

The Dry Sea Bath.

H. M. S. in New York Tribune.

Why does she shrink,
This maid in pink,
And linger at the ocean's brink?

Why did she prink
To the last kink,
While yet she fears the sea's pale ink?

I'll tip a wink
To you, I think,
And tell you of her doubtful blink.

She doesn't slink
Lest she should sink—
She shrinks for fear her suit will shrink.

INJUSTICE TO ALL HOMEOWNERS.

Another View of the Billboard Nuisance With Direct Application.

PORTLAND, Aug. 12.—(To the Editor.)—It is so seldom the opportunity occurs for such fraternal feelings that I must hasten to express my delight that the ruling powers of the city propose to consummate a reform that I have long had deeply at heart, viz., the suppression of the billboard nuisance.

My home is in a part of the city peculiarly oppressed by the outrage, namely, Holladay avenue, near East First. Along both these streets stretch enormous board walls 18 or 20 feet high and blocks in length. They are covered by flaming posters, displaying those tricks commonly resorted to to catch the eye of the public and which result in the aggregate to quite an outre and ludicrous, if not a repulsive and degenerate, effect. Enormous geese are represented, spreading their pinions in frantic haste to get to some enterprising merchant's place to buy feather beds. Nude females, sometimes quite artistically done, are represented astride the earth drinking beer, which is recommended as being the "Home Beer of the Best Families of Portland."

Other young females with angelic countenances are reaching in beatific vision for Smith & Jones' diamonds, which are said to be more valuable for influence than ten times their value in a bank deposit.

However, this being still but a minor and comparatively insignificant abuse, I ignored it, until the street railway and the paving companies began to use one of these bill boards immediately in the rear of my home, and where there is a return of some 30 feet along Hassalo street, as a privy for their construction gangs.

It then occurred to me that these people, having appropriated the streets for their private aggrandizement and charged the costs of constructing the same to nearby residents, that to add to their liberties in this way was beyond my patience. A stream of unchristian-looking fellows passed in and out of this place all day not 100 feet from my back door. I appealed to the Health Office, with the result that, after persistent complaint, and about the time the street work was done, the nuisance was abated by being fenced. I also took Councilman Menefee to the place that he might see the extent of the abuse. He brought the matter before the Council. It was referred to Attorney Kavanaugh with instructions to draw such remedial ordinance as could be enforced. Since then I have intermittently bombarded the attorney's office with data and literature on the subject, and I suppose Mr. Kavanaugh has at last made his report, or has been called on by the Council to do so.

I brought the subject before the United East Side Push Clubs, and they appointed a committee to take the matter before the Council—I am chairman of that committee, and have thought best to consult with Mr. Kavanaugh, who has the matter officially in hand.

I do not see why there should be any difficulty about regulating these bill boards, restricting their use and collecting more license. When the city can force upon residence property the payment for the most expensive kind of street pavement to the extent of $500 or $600 per lot, and then add that much to the tax assessment, and at the same time remove from the street the bridge that makes the street a highway, and constituted the ostensible reason for the expensive pavement, at the same time granting free use of the street to railways and vehicles; by the same tokens, it appears they could take a hand in the billboard business. In other words, if the city can penalize innocent and unprofiting home owners for the benefit of private business, why can they not tax the profiting private business for the maintenance of the streets upon which these people do business?

I think this question deserves better study to better results than it has yet obtained.

In regard to the opinion of Mr. Gibson and others that the billboard hides unsightly rubbish, I will say that for that very reason and that it hides filth dangerous to health the billboard should be three feet from the ground. It should not be over nine feet high, should be 12 feet from the sidewalk. On complaint of any adjacent resident any reasonably obnoxious advertisement should be removable by the order of the Council. The license should be 10 to 12 cents per square foot per annum, which is about one-half the price Foster & Kleiser charge their patrons.

This kind of advertising is too cheap. That is the reason there is so much of it, and it is only reasonable that the public that must put up with the defacement should receive half the proceeds. Anyway, whether they paid the money or removed the boards the public would benefit. J. B. ZIEGLER,
Chairman Committee on Billboard Nuisance, East Side Push Clubs.

GETTING TIRED OF BILLBOARDS.

Biggest Concern in Honolulu Will Use Them No More.

SEASIDE, Or., Aug. 10.—(To the Editor.)—It gives me great pleasure to note the stand that The Oregonian has taken of late on this billboard nuisance. Let any advocate of billboards ask any tourist who has ever visited Germany or Switzerland how readily one notices the absence of these unsightly fences. During my year's stay in Europe it was such a pleasure to get away from "Chew Jack's Plug" or "Wear Jim's Sox." What would our City Council say if such ornaments were placed opposite their residences? I do not blame the Bill Posting Company at all, for they are no doubt a regular business concern, like any other legitimate business. It is the owners of the property on which these boards are erected who are to blame.

Aattached is a clipping taken from a late issue of the Commercial Advocate, of Honolulu, in which Hackfeld & Co., one of the largest mercantile houses, express their views. This firm is the largest advertiser in Hawaii. EDWARD DEKUM.

Billboard advertising in Honolulu seems destined to take a slump in the near future if the discontinuance by H. Hackfeld & Co., Ltd., the largest patron of that style of advertising in the territory, is to be accepted as a straw indicating the direction of the wind. George Rodiek, a director in the company and manager of the merchandise department of that large establishment, said yesterday:

"We have been considering for some time the idea of discontinuing advertising on billboards and confining the publicity of the firm to the newspapers. There are several reasons for this departure, one of which is our satisfaction with the results attained through the newspapers. I realize, too, that there is a growing opposition to out-of-doors publicity, such as billboards, in a locality where Nature has done so much to make everything beautiful. The dissatisfaction has gone so far as to partake of the flavor of a boycott of the goods advertised on dead walls and in every nook and crannie of the town. I cannot say that it has assumed serious proportions and, as far as it concerns our business, we do not mean that it shall. We believe, however, that if a style of advertising is objectionable to any portion of the residents, its wishes should have serious consideration.

"A species of civic pride has awakened in many of the cities on the mainland and it is being felt here. I believe it has grown with the inroads the billboards have been making in the residence section. Mr. Humburg, for instance, takes a purely aesthetic view of the matter. He opposes any form of advertising which tends to blot a spot that has been made beautiful by Nature or at the hands of man. He has had a fear for some time that he may come down to breakfast any morning and find staring him in the face a billboard inquiry as to whether he had used Pat's soap, or advice to try Jones' Food. We will discontinue the use of billboards as advertising mediums on August 1, and may use the money that has been spent in that kind of publicity in newspaper advertising."

CHRISTIANITY: SPIRIT AND LETTER

Why Its First Appeal Was Made to the Jewish Nation Alone.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—A communication in one of your recent issues raises several questions of a nature bearing on Christianity and religion in general—forgetting that religion is a matter of faith or emotion as well as intellect. One of the questions the writer raises is, why did God, through this son, make his appeal to one nation only, the Jews, and not boldly to all nations to establish for them his reality and goodness? The fact of there being many nations, and each of a different temperament, habit and civilization, etc., renders such an appeal of fruitless result, as the leader would have had to appear in different forms and attitudes to accommodate them, and thus by an apparent diversity and contradiction to their primitive and ignorant minds would have defeated the great purpose of planting the great religion, Christianity.

The appeal of the new religion had to be made to an emotional people to get its foundation and starting point. The Jews are essentially a people of faith, or intellect based on the intuitive perception. Hence the base of Christianity is Hebrew, not Greek, Egyptian or Hindu. The establishment of any new religion, of course, had to be slow, and this requires a basis deeper than that based on any form of philosophy or mysticism. Christianity, unlike all the former religions, aims to satisfy both the practical and theoretical natures of man, aiming to satisfy and build up the moral, mental and physical departments of his nature.

As to the argument against the authenticity of the scriptures, the mistakes in understanding or interpreting them have come mainly from not regarding and viewing it as containing both a spirit and letter, in somewhat the same sense as lawyers argue, or used to do so, to the spirit and letter of our everyday laws, and even the National Constitution.

John Marshall, the great jurist, settled the question, afterwards settled in toto by Grant at Appomattox, that the Constitution had a spirit or preservative power, as well as a letter or structural power. This is, in fact, the real basis of the two parties which have divided the country since its formation: the Republican representing, in the main, the spirit or life of the Constitution, the Democratic the structure, or form. Similarly the New Testament represents in the main the spirit, the Old Testament the form (law) or structure. These principles, in fact, run all through all organic institutions and, as the Bible forms the basis and starting point for the Caucasian civilization, this is the only way in which it can be received and applied with satisfactory results. CARL S. LAVALLE.

South Portland Park.

PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of August 11, in reply to "South Portland," you ask, "what suitable situation is offered?" In The Oregonian of July 10 a correspondent says, "The Mayor viewed 20 acres of ground owned by the O. R. & N. Co. on the hills skirting the city on the West Side."

"This 20 acres," the paper of another date says, "was offered to the city for $80,000, and," it is added, "the price being so high it is very certain that its purchase will not be made during the present Mayor's term of office." Now it is "South Portland's" contention that this piece of ground is not equaled, let alone excelled, by any other piece in the City of Portland for park purposes. It was the writer's privilege not long ago to go with some friends from Illinois to the summit of that piece of ground. One of the party, after resting a moment to catch his breath, turned his eyes from Mount Hood's snowy summit, toward the Cascades, Vancouver and on down toward the mouth of the Columbia and exclaimed, "Glorious Oregon! What could be grander than this?"

Let us look for a moment at the price said to be the O. R. & N. Co.'s figure $4000 per acre, roughly estimated, would be $500 per lot; $500 per lot overlooking the city and right at her doors!

He knows little of the value of land in and around Portland, who calls that price excessive. Two lots were sold last week but little over a "stone's throw" from the edge of that ground for $3000 per lot, unimproved, lots too, that have no comparison to this ground for beauty. It does certainly seem to be a fact, that there is nothing offered to the city anywhere, for a park, that is so ideal as this 20 acres, lying, as it does, just north of the generous gift of the Terwilliger Land Company. Another fact should not be overlooked, if Portland grows in the next three years as her friends hope she will, our next Mayor could not buy this 20 acres for anything like the present price. SOUTH PORTLAND.

The Path of Progress.

From Puck.

Herr Hendriq Hudson had just returned, and was going up the river to which he had lent his name.

He was leaning over the rail with his eye on the fitting landscape when the reporter cornered him.

"What do you think of the scenery?" asked the man with the pencil, motioning to the hills and valleys.

"I don't wish to criticise," returned the voyager, "but I believe that in many places the landscape could have been arranged to better set off the advertisements."

Then the reporter marveled that the early explorer had so well kept up with the times.

IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF

THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

HOW TO LEARN THE ART OF SWIMMING

Notable timely article by Arthur Cavill, the world's champion swimmer, now swimming instructor of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club.

SEATTLE FAIR SEEN WITH A WOMAN'S EYES

Unconventional letter from Mateel Howe, who finds interest in several things that most visitors do not notice.

AMERICAN WORLD-FAMOUS MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

Some of our distinguished physicians and surgeons who will be welcome at the International Congress at Budapest.

KIT CARSON, GREATEST OF FRONTIERSMEN

In his series of American heroes, Richard Spillane tells of the celebrated scout, pathfinder and Indian fighter.

ORDER EARLY FROM YOUR NEWSDEALER.