The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1909.

LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE.

Coos Bay has the right idea about self-help in all matters of public concern; but it has taken up the wrong method. The Oregonian thinks it does not mistake the sentiment and judgment of the people of Oregon when it says that they will not approve the scheme of dragging the state into the railroad business. The constitutional amendment providing for the state or district bonding plan will probably not carry. It certainly will not carry unless there shall be a very great change in public opinion between this time and the election next year. The Oregonian feels sure, therefore, that Coos Bay will have to look elsewhere for support in its laudable desire and purpose to have a railroad. Its people are justifiably indignant that they have been sidetracked in the scheme of railroad development for the state. There can be no approval of the Harriman plan of promising a railroad, starting to build it, or pretending to start, and suspending operations when he (Harriman) was seized either by a sudden apprehension that it would not at once pay, or by a conviction that he had successfully bluffed out every other feasible project. Coos Bay has great deserts, and has suffered real wrongs. But it is not wise nor practicable to redress her wrongs by taking taxpayers' money and investing it in a railroad for her benefit, in the face of the disastrous and costly experience of other states that have tried the same experiment.

Portland wishes Coos Bay well. There is no doubt of it. The delegates from this city at the recent meeting of the Oregon-Idaho Development League, at Marshfield, were fully warranted in bearing to Coos Bay a message of good will and in encouraging them to fight for their rights with every available weapon. But there ought to be no mistake about Portland's attitude toward the state-ownership of railroads.

It was pleasant, of course, that in the resolutions adopted by the congress there was cordial and enthusiastic recognition of the "aid given by the business men of Portland, who went in a body before the Legislature and insisted that the measure (the constitutional amendment for ownership of railroads) be submitted to the people." It was not done by "the business men" of Portland, but by a few business men of Portland, and others. There is little real sentiment here for the state or district bonding scheme, in The Oregonian's opinion. It expects to see the amendment largely defeated.

The Oregonian sets forth the situation now as it exists, since it feels that Coos Bay ought not to reply too surely on support for the state railroad scheme from Portland. There will be heavy and probably effective opposition here, not at all based on considerations of local influence, or prejudice, or benefit, but entirely on the knowledge gained from the experience of other states and communities in similar enterprises. It would be just the same with Portland and with The Oregonian, if there should be one or a dozen state-owned railroads projected for Portland, as, indeed, there is likely to be, if the constitutional amendment shall be adopted.

TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF GROWTH.

Every day during the 13 hours ending with 8 o'clock P. M., fifty-two passenger trains arrive or depart over the steam railroads centering in this city. This is an average of a train every fifteen minutes throughout the day. Six other regular passenger trains arrive or depart after the hours mentioned, and, as nearly all of the overland trains run in two sections, and specials are not infrequent, it is probable that the monthly average will show between sixty-five and seventy passenger trains per day arriving and departing by the steam railroads. With the Oregon Electric, United Railways and Oregon Water Power Company daily sending scores of suburban electric trains out for Salem, Vancouver, Forest Grove, Oregon City, Estacada and other points, nearly all of the business of the steam roads is in overland traffic, or in traffic to and from points from 100 to 400 miles distant.

No one who travels on any of these trains, either electric or steam, will question the necessity for the number or will fail to note that a few more are needed to handle the crowds. Some of this remarkably heavy business is, of course, traceable to the travel that passes through Portland to or from the Seattle exposition, but most of it is regular traffic that is steadily on the increase, regardless of fairs or any other unusual events.

This remarkable increase in the railroad traffic in and out of the city is only one of many industrial features which reflect the tremendous growth of the city. Even more striking is the showing made by bank clearings. Four years ago the Lewis and Clark Exposition drew to the Pacific Coast, and especially to Portland, large crowds of people, and the prosperity due to the presence of the fair was at its height in August. Bank clearings for the third week of August, 1905, were $3,314,004. For the same week this year the clearings were $7,017,424, a gain of more than 110 per cent.

Real estate transfers and building permits this year are running more than 200 per cent ahead of those for the Summer months of 1905. With all of the activity that is now in evidence in railroad building and other forms of development throughout the entire territory tributary to Portland it would be hard to overestimate the percentage of growth that Portland will show in the coming four years; but there are very few, if any, in Portland who do not expect to see the splendid record of the past four years eclipsed.

ANOTHER DIRECT PRIMARY FIASCO.

Direct primaries, each place they are tried, exert disruptive influence on party association and lead to political absurdity—latest in San Francisco where Mr. Heney, Republican, was nominated last week for Prosecuting Attorney on both the Democratic and the Independence League party tickets. Although Mr. Heney has been a defender of direct primaries and has urged them on Oregon, even in the face of unsatisfactory results in this state, the outcome in San Francisco is so absurd that he is constrained to decline both nominations. Mr. Heney sees that acceptance would violate both the spirit and the letter of the law and complete the farce.

What could reduce direct primaries to a nullity and defeat party will and purpose more effectually than nomination by one party of a member of a rival party? This outcome has been possible in Oregon ever since the direct nomination method went into effect four years ago. Cake was named the Republican candidate for United States Senator by Democratic votes. Republican ballots frequently have been marked with the names of Democrats even for the highest and the lowest offices, and Democratic ballots have been marked with the names of Republicans. Further, a Democrat has been foisted on Republicans for the highest political office in the gift of the state. This proceeding is characteristic of direct primaries, when they are unguided by deliberation within the party.

The only method of deliberation is that of the representative assembly or convention—a method extended to politics that is used in all business and religious associations of life. Many kinds of congresses are held in the United States to consider trade and "promotion" matters. Had there been any such deliberation by Democrats and Independents in San Francisco, they would not have chosen to head their ticket a man representing an opposing political party. No group of citizens can advance its political purposes by choosing for its candidate a representative of a rival party. This proposition is too plain for discussion.

So Mr. Heney is impelled to repudiate the fruits of the nomination system he admires. The Republican party, with which he is now affiliated, doesn't want him for a candidate. Reciprocally, Mr. Heney will fight the nominee of his party and try to defeat him in the election. He tells his friends he wishes to run independent. Direct primaries, then, don't suit Mr. Heney.

This is quite to be expected. It is typical of the failure of a fine-spun theory. Recently the theory brought disappointment in Indiana, Maryland and Virginia. Wherever employed, it thwarts the majority will in party, by giving choice of candidates neither of whom the majority wants, yet one of whom is forced upon the party by minority vote. Naturally, the majority refuses to support the minority candidate. Mr. Heney already has declared opposition to his party's choice for Prosecuting Attorney in San Francisco. Still he expects the support of a majority of his party for himself. Perhaps, later, he will admire direct primaries even less.

Direct primaries, when guided by the advisory convention, will reach the best practical working basis. On that basis it was established in the latest city election in Portland, and it promises to be made similarly practical for the state election next year.

PASSING OF A GREAT INDUSTRY.

A few brief sentences in the foreign grain reports last Thursday gave final notice to the world of the passing forever of the California export wheat trade. These words, in the terse language of the market page, said that quotations on California wheat cargoes were no longer posted and that the state which for a third of a century was a great power in the world's wheat markets was considered out of the export wheat trade. Commerce is usually a prosaic affair, but there is something in the rise and decline of the California wheat trade and the attendant industries which it quickened into life that is of absorbing interest. That trade was to a degree the outgrowth of the wonderful gold discoveries which drew to California adventurous spirits from all parts of the globe. When the unsuccessful goldhunter tired of his quest for the yellow metal and turned to agricultural pursuits, nature was more kind in her rewards and the fame of California as an agricultural state soon spread throughout the world.

Early in the '60s the wheat production of the state had increased far beyond the requirements for home consumption, and a new trade opened for those wonderful clippers which made the American flag famous wherever ships sailed. In 1860 the surplus was sufficient to admit of the exportation of 10,088 tons of wheat, and 58,926 barrels of flour. Ten years later it had risen to 243,199 tons of wheat and 352,969 barrels of flour. For more than thirty-five years, beginning with 1867, there was an unbroken procession of California grain cargoes covering the round-the-Horn route between San Francisco and the United Kingdom. This fleet, at times when the season drew to a close, dwindled to but a dozen or two vessels, and in the Winter months, when the bulk of the crop, was afloat, there were nearly 200 vessels strung along between the Farallones and Queenstown.

The Dreadnought, the Flying Cloud, the Young America and all the rest of the famous clippers which had raced round the Horn with the goldseekers were again breaking records on the run to Europe with wheat cargoes. The Argentine was an undeveloped and an unknown factor in the world's wheat markets, the Australian crop was insignificant, the Canadian Northwest was a wilderness and the American crop east of the Rocky Mountains provided an exportable surplus of less than 50,000,000 bushels when California began to loom large on the world's market horizon. The exportable surplus rose steadily for twenty years, reaching high-water mark in 1882, when it was 1,128,031 tons of wheat and 919,898 barrels of flour. The maximum flour exportation was reached three years later with 1,304,641 barrels; but wheat steadily declined and in 1898 had fallen below 500,000 tons. In 1902 a big crop gave the statistics a slight rally and they ran up to 482,611 tons of wheat and 1,179,901 barrels of flour. Since that date the decline has been swift, and in the year ending December 31, 1908, the total exports were but 7000 tons of wheat and 227,448 barrels of flour, and this was overwhelmingly offset by imports from Oregon and Washington of more than 200,000 tons of wheat and flour.

While the final passing of this big grain fleet, which twenty-five years ago meant so much for California, is not witnessed without regret by those who have viewed it as the foundation of the over-sea trade of the California metropolis, the lands which for so many years supplied the European markets with such a large portion of their imports are today yielding up greater revenues for their owners than were secured from the wheat crops. The "Oegon wheat," as the Willamette Valley product was classified in the foreign markets, came into prominence about ten years later than the California product, but it vanished from the foreign grain exchange quotations nearly ten years ago. The history of the export trade in "Oregon" wheat and California wheat will some day be repeated in the case of "Walla Walla" wheat, now grown so extensively in Eastern Oregon and Washington, and men now past middle age will probably live to see the day when the last export cargo from the Pacific Northwest is set afloat.

WHAT NEXT IN THE SUTTON CASE?

Better had Lieutenant Sutton lain in his grave a supposed suicide than, as now revealed, a trouble-seeking, quarrelsome, undisciplined product of Oregon and Annapolis. Better had the Marine Corps opened the disgraceful affair wide two years ago than have shielded Sutton's fellow-companions, who were more than his equals as a fist-fighting, carousing, hard-drinking lot of sailor toughs.

The investigation can have brought no comfort to the Sutton family. Hence, the more eager they are to uncover the participants in the deadly deed. Before they are done they may convince Congress that Sutton's companions of that deadly night should be dropped from the Marine Corps and otherwise punished, and that the authorities of the Marine School at Annapolis should be taken to task for failure to enforce proper discipline and to maintain rigorous order.

Unsatisfactory as the Sutton family's efforts to themselves may be, it is bound to work for improvement of the Marine School and better conduct of the Marine Corps. The lesson will be taught that there is no place for carousal and combat within the military and the marine service. That is not the way for young men to prove their brains or patriotism or bravery or prowess, to say nothing of their decency and good breeding.

SENATOR CHAMBERLAIN'S STRADDLE

Persons who admire Senator Chamberlain's tariff straddle are acting the antics of Jack-Be-Nimble to explain why he voted against the Payne-Aldrich bill that saves Oregon's duties on wool, hops and lumber. Senator Chamberlain joined hands with other pork-bar'l Senators in framing the bill to give their localities a hook-hold, but when it came to the finish and it was time to deliver the goods, he voted no and let the unspeakable Aldrich gang of Republicans save the duties on Oregon's products.

"As a matter of reflecting the wishes of his constituents," says the Senator's Democratic organ in Portland, "it is doubtful if Senator Chamberlain could more nearly have voted the will of a majority of the people of the state than he has done." Truly, and indeed? What do the wool men and the hop men and the lumber men think about it? Their products control the sentiment of the State of Oregon, since they represent most of its wealth production. These men wanted the Payne-Aldrich bill passed, since it afforded them security from perhaps severe reductions of the Dingley rates. Of like opinion were their fellow-voters of this state. For, although they did not approve all the schedules of the new bill, and would have framed it much different if it had been given to their hands, still the bill was the best that could be obtained, and afforded Oregon a share of the tariff graft. Had the bill failed to let Oregon into the pork bar'l, then this state would have been opposed to it, but as this state was let in, it needs must approve.

Chamberlain knew this full well. He took good care to show himself "right" in looking after the wool, the hops and the lumber when the bill was framed, and thus branded himself as belonging to the ranks of ardent protectionists. Then, seeing that his vote was not needed to secure passage of the bill for Oregon's benefit, he exercised his usual straddling faculty in order to make politics for his National Democratic party when it should charge Republicans with failure to accomplish sufficient downward revision. Yet Chamberlain stood with other Democrats to defeat downward revision for their home states; as for Oregon's wool and hops, he used what influence he possessed to prevent downward revision.

The inconsistency of which is that Chamberlain, though acting the part of a high protectionist and a foe of downward revision equal to that of the Republican supporters of the finished bill, turned tail in the final vote and acted the false role of a low-protection Democrat. His conduct was doubly false, because there is no such character in American politics as low-protection Democrat.

Protective tariff is not needed in this country. It takes from one man's pocket to put in another man's. It is not rightful use of power of government. Besides it affords opportunity for straddle and buncombe. Senator Chamberlain proved himself a high protectionist. He had no reasonable complaint against the Payne-Aldrich bill. He should have been consistent. He should have quit straddling when he left the Governor's office. He should have supported the protection bill in whose making he had joined.

THE SPECIAL-AGENT JOKE.

The Government "special agent" as a rule is a joke, so far as accomplishing anything of advantage to the "special" line of trade which he may be investigating is concerned. As an example, Special Agent Davis, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has been spending several months on a foreign junket for the purpose of investigating the wheat and flour trade. He has already officially deplored our loss of flour trade in the Orient, and gravely advised American millers who keep men in the Orient year after year what they should do to make the Orientals eat more American flour. Recently Mr. Davis continued his investigations in Europe, and he found that, while American flour is the best that can be secured, the Europeans are not using it in greatly increasing quantities. Mr. Davis insists that what millers must do to enlarge the consumption of American flour is "to rise to the occasion by meeting the requirements of foreign markets and further impress upon Europe the merit which actually attaches to the American product."

This has a pleasant sound, but who will foot the bills? The principal, overwhelmingly prominent "requirement" of the foreign market is that the product be sold at as low a price as the buyer must pay for flour made from wheat grown in the cheap-labor countries that are willing to sell their wheat at a lower price than the American wheat commands in the United States. Special Agent Davis is undoubtedly as good a man for the business he is in as the Government could secure for the meager salaries it pays, but it is unreasonable to expect that his investigations would be of the slightest consequence to the big American milling interests that keep high-salaried men in foreign countries the year round, studying conditions and meeting foreign "requirements" in everything except the price, in which, of course, they meet their limitations.

When wheat is scarce and high in other countries and plentiful in the United States, our flour trade increases. When conditions are reversed, it decreases. The reason for the changing conditions are so obvious that it is unnecessary to have a special agent to point them out.

The report of the National Waterways Commission, which is to investigate the canal and other water transportation systems of Europe, should be a very interesting document. In this country, and especially in the Pacific Northwest, there is deep ignorance regarding the actual cost of water transportation as compared with rail. We could not, of course, depend on moving freight by water at as low a cost in this country as it is moved in the cheap-labor lands of the Old World, but the Commission, if it carefully studies the situation, can present data of great value. It would be a matter of great interest to Portland to learn whether freight could be carried by water from this city to Lewiston and other interior points in competition with railroad rates, and show a profit on the transaction—not with artificial aid from the state, but simply as a business proposition.

Oregon has developed the lumber, fruit, dairying and general farming industries on such an elaborate scale that less dependence is now placed on some of the other great staples that made the state famous. Wool attracts less attention than formerly, but this state is still one of the largest wool producers in the United States, and the reason for its prominence is in a degree explained by our unrivalled climatic conditions. As a sample of what can be done in the woolgrowing line, an item from Wallowa in yesterday's market column is interesting. The entire clip of Wallowa County, amounting to more than 1,700,000 pounds, averaged more than ten pounds per fleece, and half of one large band averaged 13½ pounds per fleece.

"I do not give up the fight," says Walter Wellman, in announcing that he has no intention of abandoning his trade as a North Pole hunter. Mr. Wellman should not be harshly criticised for this determination. He has been engaged in the work of ballooning to the North Pole for so many years that it would be cruel to deprive him of the annual junket to Hammerfest. It must be admitted, however, that these attempts will be less attractive, now that all kinds of airships are flying around close at home, where people can see them.

The disclosures now being made at Montreal show that the regular rate paid for fire and police appointments was $200 each. This ought to make San Francisco feel better, for under the Schmitz regime the tariff was never permitted to fall below $500. What a cheap lot of grafters those Canadians must be!

It is a good thing for horticulture in the United States that the Association of Agricultural Colleges came in personal touch at Hood River with one of Oregon's incomparable apple districts. There is no reason why this state should not teach the Nation the best there is in the science of fruit-growing.

Some one at the Trans-Mississippi Congress wanted to move the National Capital to Denver, "where any Japanese fleet could not reach it." We hadn't thought of that; but why not move it to Portland, where everyone will guarantee that a Japanese ship or army won't—not can't—reach it?

Reliable report has it that President Taft has, by strenuous exercise at Beverly, managed to reduce from 324 pounds to 306. The reliable report is from a reliable reporter who saw the President on his weigh after a golf game.

The great need of the hour is a noncollidable automobile. Probably we shall have it when the speed limit is reduced to ten miles an hour. There is no way to go fast and at the same time decrease the hazard.

However, Mr. Schively ought to remember that his grief is as nothing compared with the copious buckets of tears shed by the insurance companies after he had made one of his grand inspection round-ups.

Keep your eye on the blue cerulean dome. You may see an airship at any moment. Yamhill County has an aviator, and when Yamhill gets busy there is always something doing.

It has been arranged at last that Taft shall have one day of golf and peace at Seattle. Seattle can let a President alone, if it must.

Pennsylvania's western penitentiary is reported to have been robbed by certain officers of $90,000. It takes thieves to watch thieves.

History may truthfully record of Wellman: He went straight up and turned around and came right down again.

The owners of Lone Fir ought to be satisfied. The census there shows many more than really live there.

The Agricultural College presidents have put their "O. K." on Hood River. They know.

U'RENISM IN FULL BLOOM.

Protest Against the Latest Scheme of the Quack Lawgiver.

Dallas Observer.

Oregon's law doctor, W. S. U'Ren, has put his factory in operation again and is grinding out a new constitutional amendment to be submitted to the people under the initiative at the next state election. Of all the freak measures the great specialist has ever prepared, his latest effort is entitled to the medal. It is so revolutionary in its character that even U'Ren's populistic and anarchistic friends are afraid of it. The amendment proposed to be submitted is nothing less than a provision to take the election of county officials away from the people and clothe the Governor with power to appoint them.

If this proposed amendment isn't U'Renism and damphoolism (which are one and the same) gone to seed, then there is no such thing as madness and folly. And yet, it is only a logical result of governmental tinkering and no more than the people have any right to expect when they place the almost sacred work of framing their laws in the hands of a visionary, impractical dreamer—a revolutionary theorist.

"But," it will be argued, "such a law will never pass. The people will not stand for it." Let us not be too sure about that. It must be remembered Doctor U'Ren has been surprisingly successful in getting his prescriptions down the throats of his patients. The voters make wry faces at his medicine, but they take it. He prescribes the direct primary—the people swallow the dose. He next pours out a spoonful of official recall—same result. Next, a "foolish powder," commonly known as the corrupt practices act—it goes down as if it were greased. Are we right sure that we are not going to take this latest and most nauseating dose of all? Let's not get too gay about it.

Eugene Register.

What U'Ren cannot think of in Oregon politics is not worth mentioning. First he gives us a primary law with a statement-one attachment by which the voice of the people is supposed to be heard in all elections, and then, after having exhausted all the political fads he can think of starts a new regime, reversing himself by proposing a law empowering the Governor of the state to name County Sheriffs and District Attorneys which he is also privileged to remove at will, making of the Governor an autocrat, a monarch of the most pronounced type within what is supposed to be a free government.

U'Ren's statement-one primaryism and its antithesis, governorship control of county and district offices, shows the two extremes to which a faddist can go in his bid for recognition in affairs of state.

Unbreathable Air in Sleeping Cars.

PORTLAND, Aug. 21. — (To the Editor.)—In the crusade for pure air and against the white plague, it is curious that nothing has been done to stop a custom that deliberately throws contamination into the face of a long-suffering public. Even the sweeping out of a house has given place to the dust-collecting machine, so what shall we say of the custom that holds sway daily in our railway sleeping cars of brushing off passengers as they approach the end of their journey? The dust off one's own clothes may be removed, but in exchange one gets that of all the other occupants of the car, and gets it not only in his clothing, but in his eyes, nose and throat. Is it expecting too much to hope that this ridiculous and disgusting custom will be put a stop to, and that either people be brushed off on the platform of the car, or that there be installed a system of dust-absorbing machines, such as are already to be found in the most up-to-date barber shops? It might interfere with the tip that the brush-off is the preliminary to, but is it not about time to investigate the tip evil also? On a recent journey I had the experience of the air becoming absolutely unbreathable.

VICTIM.

Complaint of Inefficient Service.

PORTLAND, Aug. 21. — (To the Editor.)—Will you be good enough to air a complaint which I have against the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company — something that interests Portland at large?

On Thursday of last week I put in a long-distance telephone call at Dayton, Wash., for a party in Portland, for the purpose of ordering some goods. A few hours later I was advised that they had sent a messenger for my party, but he had not returned, and that was the last I heard of my call, and that was five days ago.

The trouble lies in the inadequacy of the wires. The Dayton business is switched through Walla Walla, and they get the wire when everybody else is done with it. It seems to me a telephone commission would be a proper remedy for this fault. The telephone company is getting the money, and giving nothing for it. I think this will appeal to every man who has occasion to carry on business out of the city. The telephone company does not give one a chance to use any other method of communication once a call is put in, for the reason that it promises results every minute or so. GEORGE McCABE.

Praises Portland's Progress.

PALO ALTO, Cal., Aug. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Mrs. Colby's letter in the Oregonian of August 8 has been sent to me by a Portland friend, not the author. I am glad to see so plain a statement about the new club. I have known Portland a good many years, but I was greatly surprised to learn that it has had no suffrage club for years. Possibly it is worth something to have a clear field for an aggressive club, and our club will look for news of the meeting to be called in the Fall to perfect the organization.

ALICE L. PARK,
President Votes for Women Club.

Sunflower Philosophy.

Atchison Globe.

A man's sins will not find him out as soon as his wife.

Millions of people still believe that the saucer was made to drink out of.

It is as difficult to select the best automobile as it is to select the best cantaloupe.

Many a boy passes through life without hearing a kind word until some woman starts out to capture him for a husband.

Good Word for the Revolver.

Cleveland Leader.

"Don't chide me for carrying a revolver. This little gun saved my life once."

"How exciting! Tell me about it."

"I was starving and I pawned it."

Beginning of the Romance.

Kansas City Journal.

"Was your first meeting with your wife romantic?"

"Extremely so. It occurred at a picnic. I was eating a very ripe tomato and some of it squirted into her eye."

Church Members in United States 33,000,000

Census for 1906 Shows Great Growth in Six Years—Roman Catholics Have Largest Increase—More Women Than Men Belong.

That the church members in the United States numbered nearly 33,000,000 in 1906; that there were a billion and a quarter dollars invested in church edifices; that every day eight new churches sent their spires skyward; that males formed considerably less than half the total church membership; that a larger percentage of Catholic males than Protestant males were members; that in 16 states the majority of the total church membership were Roman Catholic; but that of the grand total of church members reported for the United States, 61.6 per cent were Protestants and 36.7 per cent Roman Catholics; these are the salient and conspicuous facts appearing in the proofsheets of a United States Census Bureau bulletin, prepared by Chief Statistician William C. Hunt, of the division of population of the United States Census Bureau.

The bulletin will be issued this month. It is in the nature of an abstract of the comprehensive report, now in press, giving the results of the fifth census of Religious Bodies in the United States.

* * *

It is stated that United States Census statistics of church membership by sex were collected for the first time in 1906. Of the total number of members reported by the various religious bodies and classified by sex, 43.1 per cent were males and 56.9 per cent females. Among the Protestants the difference was greater, only 39.3 per cent being males. In the Roman Catholic churches there were relatively more males, the number forming 49.3 per cent of the total membership.

Fewer males than females were found among the Latter-day Saints, the Lutherans, Disciples, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Protestant Episcopalians, the percentages of male members decreasing in the order shown and there being but 35.5 per cent male among the Episcopalians. Among the Christian Scientists, only 27.6 per cent were males, and of the Shakers but 21.2 per cent; but in the Greek Orthodox Church 93.9 per cent were male, as practically all Greek immigrants have been males.

* * *

Of the total estimated population of continental United States in 1906, the church members formed 39.1 per cent, as against 32.7 per cent for 1890, amounting to 6.4 per cent more in 1906 than in 1890. Of this 6.4 per cent increase, the Roman Catholic Church is credited with 4.4 per cent, and the Protestants with 1.8 per cent; the remainder being divided among all other denominations.

It is stated in the bulletin that the total number of members reported by the various religious bodies for 1906 was 32,936,445, of which number the Protestants were credited with 20,287,742, and the Roman Catholics with 12,679,142. Of the Protestant bodies the Methodists numbered 5,749,838; the Baptists, 5,662,234; the Lutherans, 2,112,494; the Presbyterians, 1,830,555, and the Disciples or Christians, 1,142,359.

Of the total of 32,936,445 church members, 61.6 per cent were Protestants; 36.7 per cent Roman Catholic, and 1.7 per cent members of other religious organizations. The rate of increase shown for the Roman Catholic Church is 33.5 per cent, which is more than twice that for all the Protestant bodies combined. The Methodists reported 17.5 per cent of all Protestant church members; the Baptists, 17.2 per cent.

* * *

The total number of local religious organizations in 1906 is given as 212,230, an increase since 1890 of 47,078, or 28.5 per cent. The Protestants are credited with an increase in this particular amounting to 27.8 per cent; the Roman Catholic Church, 21.9 per cent; the Jewish congregations, 221.9 per cent, and the Latter-Day Saints, 38.3 per cent.

The Methodists reported the largest number of local organizations, 64,701; the Baptists reported 54,889; the Presbyterians, 15,506; the Lutheran, 12,703, and the Roman Catholics, 12,482.

Other interesting features of the bulletin are those showing that the total seating capacity of churches was 58,536,830, an increase over the 1890 United States Census figures of 34.4 per cent; that the rate of increase was practically the same for both Protestants and Roman Catholics, and kept pace with the increase in population; and that $1,257,575,867 was invested in church edifices in 1906. The total amount of debt was $108,050,948, or 8.6 per cent of the total value; of this total the Prostestant bodies owed $53,301,354 and the Roman Catholics, $49,488,055. In 16 states a majority of the church members were Roman Catholic; in 29 states, Prostestant, and in one, Utah, Latter-Day Saints.

SOMETHING DOING IN OREGON.

Music-Lover Complains.

Eugene Register.

If the electric pianos at our nickelodeons would only change their tunes once in a while it would be a relief to the music-loving public.

No Safety-Razor Epidemic Here.

Corvallis Gazette-Times.

It is said that three new barber shops will be opened here this winter. Corvallis really needs six more barber shops about like it needs three more newspapers.

A Hustling Widow.

Harney County News.

Mrs. M. C. Libby, of Boston, arrived in Burns Saturday. Mrs. Libby intends to raise fancy poultry for the market here. She is an expert stenographer and typewriter and is an enthusiastic booster of Harney County.

Never Too Late for a Honeymoon.

Corvallis Gazette-Times.

A placard on a trunk at the Union Station today read as follows:

"This Saratoga belongs to a bride and groom. Bride—dashing. Groom—disfigured but still in the ring."

The great trunk belonged to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wells, octogenarians (more or less) starting on a trip to Seattle, St. Paul and Kansas City. Mrs. Wells is a demure little woman as quiet as she is sweet and lovely, while W. A., though past 70 years, is a royal sport.

The National Game in Rabbitville.

Old Man Bennett in the Optimist.

Bunco cum home the yother morning about 2 o'clock with his shirt front all covered with tobakker spit, and he told his wife he had been out playing poker, as he cood afford to tell her, havving won almost two $, which he handed over to her. Then she sed, "What forevver is the matter with your shirt front?" And he told her he had spitted onto it while playing poker, and she sed, "Why dident you turn around to spit?" and he sed it was danjerous to turn around with them fellers I was playing with. You see we have sum experts in the card line in Rabbitville.

Excitement in a Dry Town.

Ione Proclaimer.

Over at the Proclaimer house the other day a large snake ran along the fence just where the baby had been a few moments previous. Well, there certainly was an exciting time there for a few minutes. The wife ran for Mr. King, while Audrey danced around in the yard. About this time Mrs. Race happened along and, seeing the snake, told Audrey to get the hoe for her and she would kill it. Audrey ran out in the back yard and picked up a mopstick, but by this time Mr. King was there and killed it. We asked Audrey why she didn't get the hoe, and she said she thought she was getting it, but was scared too badly to see good.

Bad Spells in Umatilla.

East Oregonian.

Below is the list which proved too difficult to the majority of the eight who failed to make an average sufficient to entitle them to the papers which would permit them to teach in the county. The 50 words counted for half the examination and they are as follows:

Inflexible, insensible, intersperse, interstice, intolerant, invincible, invisible, italicize, laboratory, labyrinth, maritime, menagerie, mercenary, miscreant, misdemeanor, mnemonics, mollify, monetary, monosyllable, monotony, necessary, nihilism, nullify, observance, ominous, optimist, pessimist, ostracize, pageantry, panacea, paroxysm, Pentateuch, percussion, phosphorus, piquancy, plagiarize, Pleiades, pneumatic, polygamy, preparation, pretentious, priority, promontory, proprietor, rapacity, recurence, redolent, relegate, reparation, repartee.

Systematic Toping.

Houston Post.

"I suppose you are one of these men who can drink or let it alone?"

"Yes, judge, when I has de price I drinks and when I ain't I lets it alone."

Having a Bully Time.

Chicago News.

Mr. Fairbanks found the latchstring out in Japan and the buttermilk jug brimming.

We Don't Believe It.

Omaha Bee.

The best part of the Seattle exposition is the view from the car windows while passing through Nebraska.

SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIBLE.

Improvement Could Have Been Made in the King James Version.

PORTLAND, Aug. 21.—(To the Editor.)—The editorial in last Saturday's Oregonian on the genius and excellence of William Shakespeare is, to my mind, one of the finest pieces of prose writing printed in a long time. It is what I and many other readers of The Oregonian have thought, but have not the power of expressing. I sometimes think that a person must have a peculiarly constructed mental faculty to digest, appreciate and understand the man who "was not for an age, but for all time." It was said of the late Mr. Gladstone that he thought Milton the superior of Shakespeare. If that is true his mental vision must have been distorted, or perhaps the anthem of "Hamlet" hadn't Latin and Greek enough for the English Premier.

Comparing Shakespeare with the Bible writers, it is hardly fair to the poet, for the Bible has had so many advocates for so many years. So many have been compelled to read it—yes, and memorize much of it—that whatever in it is worth reading has had all the advantage that the church and state combined could force upon the people, so that an occasional strong and beautiful passage, rendered more so by being translated in the English of Shakespeare, have become fixed in the mind, and, being constantly referred to or quoted, it is part and parcel of the common language.

Shakespeare, on the other hand, has had all the disadvantages of the Puritanical prejudice from the time of the first quarto, about 1596, to the present time in all the English-speaking countries on the globe. It is a pity that the translators of the King James Bible (1611), when Shakespeare had written most of the plays, hadn't effected some kind of arrangement with Burbabe, Hemings & Condell to have incorporated those fine passages we love so much to repeat and think on in their version. It would, I think, have improved the sacred Book wonderfully.

Again, the Bible is the labor of many writers—perhaps 30 or 40—while all, or nearly so, of the other is the work of one man. The 300 or more characters of Shakespeare are creations; the Bible characters are the reflections or opinions of the scribes. If there is no other reason for dismissing the Baconian theory of authorship, you have furnished enough when you say that if one does not understand Shakespeare it is because he is not broad and liberal enough. Bacon was narrow; all sycophants are. Bacon was so much so that the thick-skinned Elizabeth couldn't endure him. He could not understand Shakespeare. It seems that Heminge & Condell, the publishers of the first folio, were fearful that Shakespeare would not be understood and appreciated as he should in his own age, but the Ben Johnsons, Miltons, Davenants, Drydens, Popes, and their kind, made amends for the prevailing ignorance. "He seems to shake a lance as brandished at the eyes of ignorance." Heminge & Condell say: "Read him, therefore, again and again and if you do not like him, sure you stand in some danger not to understand him."

J. D. STEVENS.

Bathing the Currency.

Providence Journal.

Good luck to the Treasury authorities, who now propose to keep our paper currency clean—or, at least, cleaner than it has been. This currency is notoriously inimical to the public health, containing in some instances billions of germs from the hands and pockets of careless users; and if by means of a chemical bath it can, as is said, be rendered fresh and innocuous, the sooner such a bath is established the better. Would it not be possible, indeed, for bills to be washed, according to Government formula, by local banks? This would obviate the necessity of sending them to Washington and save a large amount of time and trouble. The bath employed in the Washington experiments cleans the bills, but does not restore their crispness, but even this pristine quality might be recovered by some additional process. Why not iron them?

Yes, and Right Now.

New York Times.

Let us encourage the aviators all we can. Let us glorify their triumphs as navigators of the air. They are the forerunners of a new era of great human achievement. But, O brothers of newspaperdom, let us drop likening them to Darius Green and Icarus!

No Escape for Him.

Providence Journal.

Diamonds and cabbages are both advancing rapidly in price. Thus the ultimate consumer, from the highest to the humblest, is pinched.