

The Oregonian

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away in Chicago, may have desired to win and hold this good will, but in the case of all the Western roads they were too far away from the originating point of the traffic to be in direct sympathy and touch with the local situation on the several roads which...

Mr. Harriman's argument was sound, but it was his own fault that he had arrogated to himself such absolute control of all rail and steamship lines in the system, that local managers were forced to shoulder the blame for the shortcomings and at the same time were powerless to remedy them.

THE AURORA BOREALIS. Among the few natural phenomena which may still be properly called mysterious is the aurora borealis, or the northern lights, as it is popularly designated. Science has reduced, under law and order, almost anything that we see or hear, but this spectacle of the Arctic heavens remains to be explained.

TO TEST CORPORATION TAX LAW. "Direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included in this Union, according to their respective numbers, as ascertained in the year 1800, by the Constitution of the United States. Is not the corporation tax of 2 per cent a direct tax? If not, what description of tax is it? Certainly it is not apportioned among the states on the basis of their population and numbers."

It would not be at all surprising, if the claim made for Rumsey should be proved, that the inventor of the steamboat should be more surely inhibited by the Constitution of the United States than even an income tax, which was pronounced unconstitutional, and to authorize which an amendment to the Constitution is now pending.

IGNORANCE OF MOTHERS. We hear much now and again of the deplorable ignorance of young mothers generally, in the care, and especially in the feeding, of infants. That there is good ground for the accusation that to this ignorance, much more even than that accounted for by the lack of knowledge of a milk—large proportion of the sickness and death of babies and young children is due, there is no reason to doubt. For the young mother, however, it may be said that she is generally willing and even anxious to learn.

CHANGES IN HARRIMAN SYSTEM. Wall street is said to be very much concerned over the disposition that is to be made of the Harriman securities, and over the possible changes that may be made in the manner of handling them in the future. It is pretty generally understood that Judge Lovett has inherited all of the power that it was possible for Mr. Harriman to turn over to any living man.

AWAKENING EAST ECHOES. The story of the record-breaking voyage of the sailing ship Howard D. Troop from Yokohama reads like a tale of the long-departed past. For nearly sixty years sailing vessels have covered that route, and among the thousands of vessels that have made the voyage were large numbers of these wonderful clippers which, long before the age of steam, made phenomenal speed on every sea.

Looking for Roosevelt. Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Leader. The coming journey to cover up the fact that there is a growing disposition to look to Roosevelt's return as the signal for a break to progressive leadership in restoration of Washington of aggressive and courageous "come on" policies.

AGITATION FOR A CENTRAL BANK. The question discussed for and against by Different Newspapers. President Taft's recent speech, in which he asked the American people to prepare themselves for a report from the Aldrich Central United States bank, is discussed as a leading public issue, and the prediction is already made that the question will occupy an important place in the next National political campaign.

There can be no doubt, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, that it would be desirable, when proper conditions exist, to have the currency under some strong central control, capable of supply and promptly expanding the supply. The trouble with efforts to establish such a central banking system with currency control, in this country lies in the well-founded aversion that the American people have to centralization of power, and by the contrary mental mind between note-issuing and other functions of a bank.

Under all the circumstances, it looks as if the central bank issue had stormy days ahead, and as if the country were confronted with the prospect of a battle in Congress over the revision of the monetary system compared to which the controversy over the emergency currency measure will be insignificant. "The details are not yet worked out," states the Philadelphia Inquirer, "but if such a bank can be established without unduly affecting the policy of Government 2 per cent bonds, it is an end devoutly to be desired."

Canadian railroad contractors are facing a labor famine, which promises to prevent the construction of a large amount of new road in the western provinces. An effort is being made to secure permission from the government to bring in several thousand Chinese to aid in the work. The scarcity of white labor is such that farmers are paying as high as \$4 per day for common labor, which, of course, makes it impossible for the railroad company to employ the forces needed.

Dr. Brougher says a trotting race that he saw last week as a text for a sermon on the subject of "The Middle Age of the Gospel." Most men in middle age can recall a time when any minister of the gospel who would stoop to so sordid an act as going to a horse race, would have been regarded by his congregation and his government as a man who had lost his mind.

The Yamhill bridegroom who was to be the victim of a charivari party had his gun handy and killed a widow there. The dead man leaves a widow and three children. It is little comfort to those who suffer from the results of this kind of foolishness to know it was all meant in fun. Perhaps if there were more killings of the kind, the charivari idea of jesting would cease.

Grandest of all blessings, to turn the roadhouses dry will be Winter's cold and rain. This will take the pleasure out of riotous "joy riding" for part of the year, at least. Hurray for the rain.

The President applies to the Ballinger-Pinchot squabble: "A soft answer turneth away wrath." So far so good, but the soft answer is neither Ballinger's nor Pinchot's.

Grave matters are under consideration this week—at the Portland convention of undertakers. Only four more days until Taft arrives. Wait for the big show!

THE RUSH TO THE FARM. Here are Good Sattre and Peasantry and Some Sense. One of the many versatile farmers at Washington, W. J. Spillman by name, and "Agriculturist in Charge of Office of Farm Management, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture," by title, seized his pen not long ago and made the following pleasing discovery:

At the present time, there is practically no literature that will give the average farmer (i. e., the tiller of the soil) any of the rudiments of farming, a general idea of the possibilities of his own land. Of course, there are those delightful periodicals of the farm which every farmer who has so much as one beehive or a row of string beans reads faithfully. But this branch of agricultural literature is too discursive and casual to fill the niche whose emptiness Mr. Spillman perceives.

From what we are able to judge, Mr. Spillman has succeeded in his effort. "Types of Farming in the United States" is the title of his essay, and therein he has done what he has set himself to do. The thing for the farmer to do is to make a ready choice and no New Yorker longing for a farm need now lack information as to the range of possibilities open before him.

It is an unfortunate situation, we admit. There is no question but that many thousands of acres of land are being used many times better off in the country; we sincerely hope that Mr. Spillman's effort will start the procession farward. But it has not started yet, and an indication of the future we distrust completely the longing of the city heart for the furrow. The one consolation of the situation is that in has created a masterpiece of agricultural literature, the production of which is, after all, the end and aim of our Washington farmers.

THE SMOOTHNESS WITH WHICH THE MACHINE IS WORKED IN THAT STATE. Newport News Letter to the Washington Post. Political contests in the Old Dominion are carried on in a very courtly way, which is refreshing as well as amazing to the outsider. Out in the rude and unpolished West and in the hustling North you call your political opponent a "bottle-browed scoundrel," and branch out from that all the rest of the party is guilty of imbecility, treachery and rapacious intent upon wrecking the country, and hand him a few hot ones of like tenor.

IN VIRGINIA IT IS DIFFERENT. You say: "Sir, I am constrained to remark that your character lacks that elevated quality which should mark the leader of a free people, and 'Your party's course, sir, in this community has not been characterized by the people,' or something on that order. Go to calling your opponent a thief or a thug down here and the meeting would break up with somebody a candidate for a hospital."

SHORT POLITICAL COMMENT. Mr. Bryan speaks of the two wings of the Republican party. That's as many as the angels have—Springfield Union. That New York plan to "reunite all Democrats" will give new life to that exciting question: "What is a Democrat?"—Detroit News.

Judging by the number of important recommendations President Taft will make to Congress next winter, the body will have no chance to "toot on the job."—Philadelphia Press. It is our belief that the worthlessness of Legislatures is a direct result of the muckraker campaigns which have been carried on by some magazines and newspapers.—Charleston News and Courier.

IF OUR STATE TAKES DOWN ONE BOTTLE from the patent medicine shelf, the demand for others will quickly be heard. While we are yet writing in the throes of direct primary legislation, a letter will arrive for a dose of reform pills or perchance a recall tablet. And so it will go.—New York Evening Sun. UREN'S BOSS PLAN. Tiltmink Headlight. The Uren style of political bossism is advocating a constitutional amendment to take the election of Sheriffs, District Attorneys and state officers out of the hands of the voters and place the power to appoint them. Those who so blindly followed the Uren fallacies will readily see that this would create such a political machine that it would sweep all other boss rule ever attempted in Oregon. Surely it is about time for the Republicans, who went daff over the Uren fallacies to resign their offices and are strictly representative government.

Life's Sunny Side

"Did the Major ever get that office he was running for?" "Don't want it. You see, the Major is a boss crater, and if he should get the office he'd have to quit specifically." Only thing that saves him is to keep a-running!—Atlanta Constitution.

Kulcker—When do you expect confirmation of the discovery of the Pole?" "Bocker—When Mr. S. Claus comes to town.—New York Sun. Farmer—Ever milk a cow? Boarder—No, sir, but I'd like to try. Farmer—Think you can make 'er give down? Boarder—I guess so. I've served two years as a personal-property assessor.—Chicago Tribune.

Foxy Papa—Have you vanishing ink? Tradesman—Yes. Going to make sure of no breach of promise suits? Foxy Papa—Oh, no; going to give my daughter-in-law a check for \$500 on a wedding present.—Tr-Bits. Reporter—Senator, to what do you chiefly attribute your successful career? Eminent Statesman—Entirely to heredity, young man. I deserve no credit for it whatever. My father had ambition and my mother had talent. Both those qualifications.—Exchange.

Philocrat (engaging new chauffeur)—And have you any references from your last employer? Applicant for the Job—No; but I can get some in about a month. Philocrat—You're a fool, but I'll employ you. Applicant—He's in the hospital.—Casells' London Journal. Him—You're the only girl I ever loved! Her—That's interesting, but immaterial. What I want to know is, am I the only girl you're ever going to love?—Chicago Leader.

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Zeke Weatherby—Josh, while I was in town I had a little trouble with a tramp—Have you ever made an effort to get work? Tramp—Yes, ma'am. Last month I got into for two members of my family, but neither of them would take it.—Human Life. Kind Old Lady (talking to a tramp)—Have you ever made an effort to get work? Tramp—Yes, ma'am. Last month I got into for two members of my family, but neither of them would take it.—Human Life.

"You're a bun driver," says one chauffeur. "Say," says the other, "what I know about automobiles would fill a library." "Yes, and what you don't know about 'em would fill a morgue."—Cleveland Leader. HARRIMAN'S METHOD. But Who Would Have Dared This and Succeeded Here? In S. J. Hendrick in McClure's Magazine. The history of the Harriman roads is simply that of a small group of men who, without spending much money of their own, have concentrated in their own hands one-third the railway mileage of the United States. Once getting possession of the Union Pacific—evidently without going deeply into their own pockets—they have simply issued new securities and with the money derived from this sale have purchased large stock interests in other roads. In 1893 Harriman began the management of the Union Pacific, and in 1895 he issued its preferred and common stock to the amount of \$2,000,000, purchasing with the money thus obtained the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company and the Oregon Short Line, which extended his system to the Pacific coast. In 1897 the great expansion of the Harriman system really began, when the Union Pacific and the Oregon Short Line raised \$145,000,000 by the sale of bonds. The directors placed the money at Harriman's disposal to expend for the benefit of the road. Briefly stated, Harriman used the money in buying a controlling interest in the Great Northern Railway, the Northern Pacific, however, rescued it from insolvency and transformed it into a richly paying system, it would manifestly not have had the credit with which it accomplished the task.

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