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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 1910.

OUR DIVORCE STATISTICS.

The bald statistics of divorce in Oregon are discouraging enough to people who expect the early dawn of the millennium, but they must be analyzed a little to show the full enormity of the evil. Our divorce rate of 368 to the 100,000 of population is exceeded in only five states, and is more than 50 per cent above Japan's. This in itself affords matter for serious reflection. It is still more disconcerting to discover that the number of divorces in Oregon increases at an increasing rate year by year, while the number of marriages increases at a diminishing rate. Evidently if this continues a time will come when we shall have more divorces than marriages.

To make the meaning clearer, we may cite the statistics for the years 1904, 1905 and 1906. Between 1904 and 1905 the annual number, or rate, of marriages in Oregon increased by 472 and the number of divorces by 114. But between 1905 and 1906 the marriages increased by 78 only, while the divorces increased by 127. In other words, the number of marriages is increasing at a retarded rate, while that of divorces increases at an accelerated rate. This portentous fact is brought out more instructively by the statistics for Multnomah County, which are more complete than those for the entire state, and also more recent. Beginning with 1905 and ending with 1908, the yearly number of marriages in Multnomah County increased at the yearly rates of 188, 156 and 102. For the same period the divorces increased at the yearly rates of 5, 38 and 53. Between 1905 and 1906 the rate of increase of divorces was only the thirty-seventh part of that of marriages, while between 1907 and 1908 it had grown to be more than half as large. In four years more, unless conditions change fundamentally, our divorce rate will be growing faster than our marriage rate.

It is facts like these which indicate deep social tendencies. The mere numbers of marriages and divorces are superficial matters which do not necessarily convey any important information. But when we find divorces tending to increase at an accelerated rate while the increase of marriages is retarded more and more, then we have reached a subject which merits profound study. The statistics for marriage and divorce are a little more depressing in Oregon than in some other states, but their significance is the same. Throughout the United States, all over the world, in fact, with few exceptions, divorce is increasing, marriage is postponed or avoided, and the birth rate is declining. Students of sociology explain these phenomena in various ways. Some find in them grounds for apprehension. Civilization is in peril, they say. Perhaps the human race may have grown world-weary and sterile. The will to live is failing and we are approaching the Schopenhauerian self-annihilation of mankind. Others do not feel quite so gloomy over it. The declining birth rate is more than compensated, they contend, by modern success in saving babies' lives. It is better to bring fewer children into the world and keep them all alive than to bear them in countless multitudes and slaughter the majority by ignorance and poisonous food.

As for divorces, they are doubtless regrettable, but enlightened opinion seems to agree that they are not so deplorable as they are depicted sometimes. We must look upon them as phenomena of a transition period. Their number happens just now to be abnormally great. It was smaller years ago. It will be smaller again by and by. Meantime we must make the best of it, for there is no likelihood that legislation can help at all. The so-called divorce evil unquestionably flows from deep changes progressing in the structure of society. What they are it would be presumptuous to try to specify fully. They are as yet too formless to be recognizable, but certainly one of them is a revision of the relations between men and women. In America, at any rate, women are forging ahead of men intellectually. They dominate our religion and our feebly incipient art. Our literature is mainly written for them. Moreover, they are becoming every day more independent economically. Some students express all this by saying that woman is replacing her institutional consciousness by a developing individuality. She is becoming more of a person and less of a racial type. The change requires time to complete, and while it is in progress the marriage relation is necessarily disturbed. Both sexes feel their inherited habitudes dissolving and perceive the need of forming new ones. Until they have done so there will be more or less trouble between them and the family will be comparatively unstable, but it is not in any serious danger. In the end all will come right again unless foolish legislation interferes too much with the course of evolution.

The General Manning, one of the largest and finest craft in the revenue service, is lying in Portland harbor, awaiting some minor repairs. At various times in the past revenue cutters have been stationed for brief periods in this city, and it would seem that an effort should be made to have this port made a permanent station for the Manning and her successors in the service in this district. For convenience in handling shore business, securing supplies and repairs, this city has advantages equal to any obtainable at the Puget Sound cities, where these craft have been stationed in the past. Portland firms have been asked for bids on some of the repairs and equipment needed on the vessel. An effort should be made by those interested to make these bids so satisfactory that there will be no likelihood of the vessel going elsewhere for them. If the Government can be convinced that Portland has special advantages as a station for a revenue cutter, the Manning or some other cutter might be permanently stationed here.

GARBAGE.

It is a word neither elegant nor nice, yet is very necessary. But any other word, standing for the same thing, would be as offensive. Owing to the vast variety of opinion for which Portland has long been famous, no proposition on the garbage question at Portland has ever received the support of more than a few of the citizens. Theories are broached in exceeding plenty; but every man is especially fond of his own, or of some other that he has heard of but knows little about. Just now The Oregonian is intending to suggest a method that it has several times suggested, but with no success, heretofore. Possibly now, after the circle of suggestion has been completed, this idea, by no means original, yet based on the general method of doing all kinds of work by contract, may find more hospitable reception.

Suppose now the city should abandon or postpone for the present the idea of selling bonds and building a garbage burner, and let out to some company the contract of removing and destroying the garbage of the city—guarding the public interest with close and rigid regulations. It probably would be the cheapest and most efficient way. The garbage could be removed from the city on cars or by river, or in both ways, and destroyed at some suitable point where the offensiveness of the operation would be minimized. The removal could be effected after midnight. The charges would be regulated by law and by contract.

It will be a wasteful method to cart the garbage three miles, down to the proposed crematory, to be built by the city. One or two incinerators will have to be put in on the East Side very soon, if this plan shall be adopted, and another on the West Side, in South Portland. The city will get a million dollars into the business very soon, and then will conduct it at vast expense. Besides, nobody in the city wants a garbage burner in his vicinity. There will always be a "dump," on fire, like that in "the Valley of Hinnom, Tophet thence, and black Gehenna called, the type of Hell."

But out beyond the city a place could be obtained by contractors, who could make their arrangements to convey the garbage to it in tight cars, in the early morning hours. This would be the method least offensive to the city; it would save the interest on bonds in ever-increasing amounts, and would save the city the continual and immense worry of "working the system." It is just what is done in contracts for services in most other lines of work in which the city is engaged. Regulation of rates and of all other particulars of operation would be controlled by the city, and a supervision maintained to see that all the conditions were complied with.

But it probably would be complained that somebody might make money out of the contract. That always is a prime consideration in Portland—the fear that somebody will make money. But if this scavenger business is not worth its reward it would be difficult to say what business is worth it. Under the Socialist system all, it may be supposed, will have to take their turn at the garbage cart. Is this the solution?

HILL MOVING SOUTH.

The announcement that the Hill line into Central Oregon would be continued to Klamath Falls and thence to a connection with California will occasion no surprise. Despite the frequent denials of Mr. Hill that he had any intention of invading the California field, neither railroad nor commercial interests in close touch with the situation believed that the line would find a terminus this side of California. The immense traffic which California has supplied for the Southern Pacific has been one of the richest plums that has ever dropped in the Harriman basket. By systematic silencing of opposition, the Harriman lines have nearly always been in absolute control of the great traffic.

Aside from this great overland business that can be handled by the Hill lines after they form a California connection, there is already a large volume of passenger and freight business between Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and California in which the Harriman interests are practically alone in their glory. By forcing an entrance to Puget Sound over the Hill tracks, the Harriman road with a through line to San Francisco and beyond, quite naturally secured nearly all of the through rail traffic and it will hold it until the Hill line is completed through to California.

The extension of the road to Klamath Falls will also prove of inestimable value to Portland, for this city will then have access to the richest portion of Southern Oregon on even terms with our California competitors.

COALS TO NEWCASTLE.

The steamer Northland arriving from San Francisco yesterday brought among other freight nearly 2000 bales of California hay. During the month of January, smaller consignments aggregating more than 4000 bales were received by steamer from the California port. In this new business there are some of the unusual elements that have made famous that remarkable transaction known as "carrying coals to Newcastle." Since the season opened last July, Portland has received by rail from Oregon and Washington points more than 1900 carloads of hay. In a country which has become famous alike for the quality and quantity of hay produced, it seems strange indeed to witness the importation from California of such large quantities.

The incident demonstrates, however, that the overtaking of the production by the demand is in evidence in the hay business as well as in wheat, beef, butter and every other commodity which the soil produces. It also shows that there are still great opportunities for producing remunerative crops for which there is always a waiting market. Hay will grow luxuriantly in a hundred localities in Oregon, wherever the ground is cleared. With irrigation it can be produced at great profit throughout what is known as the dry belt east of the Cascade Mountains, while in the coast regions there are innumerable rich little valleys and "draws" in which the yield is enormous wherever the land is cleared.

There is no good reason why this state should not produce all of the hay needed for the home demand. In buying in the California market, the consumer is sending to another state money which could be advantageously circulated here.

There is the additional loss of money paid for freight on the California product. So long as Oregon is importing a great staple like hay, the limit of development of our own resources is still some distance in the future.

PORTLAND'S PROSPEROUS BANKS.

Portland has a reputation throughout the country as a conservative, safe city that has never been over-boomed, nor over-built. There has been very little discounting the future in the way of buildings that were not needed, or in placing fictitious values on lands not yet necessary for business or residence purposes. This conservative characteristic is reflected in the excellent bank statements appearing in yesterday's Oregonian. A gain of more than $2,000,000 in deposits in two and one-half months with an increase of $1,329,046 in cash holdings, is a record which shows quite clearly that the banking business of the city is strictly in keeping with other lines of industry for which it supplies the sinews of war.

The twenty-three National, state and private banks of the city at the close of business January 31 showed deposits of $62,350,653, with loans and discounts of $34,579,900, and cash and exchange to the amount of $22,724,671. The ten clearing-house banks reported a gain in the last year of $10,916,831 in deposits and of more than $8,000,000 in loans and discounts. The highly conservative policy for which Portland is noted, is shown in the remarkably large proportion of the deposits represented in the cash item. The New York clearing-house banks have a rule which requires a cash reserve equal to 25 per cent of the deposits. This percentage has nearly always been ample to prevent any disturbance of a serious nature. On the same basis the clearing-house banks of Portland would have found it unnecessary to hold more than $14,646,000, instead of more than $21,000,000 as shown by yesterday's statement.

Even greater conservatism is displayed in the matter of loans and discounts, as the Portland clearing-house banks showing loans but little more than half as large as the deposits. In the New York bank statement last Saturday the clearing-house banks reported loans of $1,232,000,000, compared with deposits of $1,251,720,000. A noticeable feature of the detailed bank statement yesterday was the very excellent showing made by a number of comparatively new banking institutions. The figures for all of the older banks, without exception, showed liberal increases in the volume of business handled, thus proving that the business of the new banks had not been secured at the expense of the older ones.

Portland bankers, by keeping on hand big supplies of cash, may not reap as large profits as they would secure by forcing the loan account, but an examination of the statement printed yesterday will show that the local institutions are immune from any trouble which might overtake less carefully managed banks.

HOME RULE.

An "Old Subscriber" to The Oregonian writes to inquire "why England refuses to grant home rule to Ireland?" He mentions that she has been willing to grant it to most of her other dependencies, but seems to make an exception of Ireland. Wales and Scotland are exceptions also, but their status is not the same as that of Ireland. Scotland was incorporated with England by an "act of union," which was, in form at least, entirely voluntary, and the Scottish monarchs became Kings of Great Britain. Hence the position of Scotland is extremely respectable. Wales is a conquered principality, but its vanity is soothed by having the heir apparent for its "Prince," its religion is Protestant and the blight of absentee landlordism has never smitten it. Welsh loyalty to the British crown is therefore firm and unwavering.

Ireland is another matter. The enmity of the islanders to the English is racial, religious, economic, linguistic and sentimental. In all these particulars the Irish have been wounded by their conquerors. Unforgivable injuries have been inflicted and received by them, and have generated a hatred which nothing seems to assuage. Because of this hatred, which might become disloyalty, England has not dared to grant home rule to the Irish. To do so, in the opinion of Tory statesmen, would be simply to arm an irreconcilable enemy at her door. Even Liberal leaders would not think of conceding home rule without numerous precautions and restrictions. It has been said that the racial characteristics of the Irish are the greatest hindrance to their national progress. A certain intensity of insistence upon matters of passion combined with neglect of practical measures is what critics charge them with. How fair or unfair this may be, every reader must decide for himself from his studies in Irish history.

DEAD ISSUES.

The outburst of Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, in the United States Senate against lending Government tents to Confederate veterans for their reunion, and against placing the statue of General Robert E. Lee in the hall of fame, would have been applauded in every state north of Mason and Dixon's line a third of a century ago. That the sentiments he expressed have been outdated by time—the great healer of wounds of the spirit—was witnessed in the fact that he alone, in the United States Senate voted against the resolution to lend the tents to the Confederate veterans.

While it is possible that magnanimity may go too far, in a matter of this kind; and while it must be admitted that the people of the South, as a body, have been slow to exercise a feeling of brotherliness for those who wore the Nation's blue in time of civil strife, it is still well to remember that victors can afford to be magnanimous even under the pressure of great provocation, and that the vanquished should be forgiven for clinging to the skeleton of their traditions, even while its bones turn to dust in their hands. As sung by Will H. Thompson in his "High Tide at Gettysburg"—

> A mighty mother turns in tears
> The pages of her battle years,
> Lamenting all her fallen sons.

A mighty Nation, prosperous beyond precedent and separated from her battle years by nearly half of a century, turns but seldom the pages written in the blood of her fallen sons. Over these pages, when turned in sadness by the vanquished who survive the strife of a strenuous era, or in sudden gust of patriotism by some impulsive orator who knew not the bitterness of the strife, the "mighty mother" sheds few tears. The fountains of these have long since been dried under the sun of prosperity that shines upon a people, reunited under the old flag. To be sure, any one whose memory extends over the period and incidents of the Civil War, ending with the assassination of Lincoln, can lash himself into a frenzy of patriotic indignation if he chooses to do so—but what's the use?

Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, was the first man to lift a voice in official circles for the farmer, in the present high price flurry. Against the statement that the farmer is growing opulent and lazy because of the high prices of farm and range products, Senator McCumber asserts that he is the last person to profit by soaring prices of these products. In support of this assertion he cites that a four-year-old steer which would sell in North Dakota for $74 would bring $2500 when served at prevailing prices for meat in the Senate restaurant; that the bushel of wheat, for which the farmer receives ninety cents, retails for $3 and $4 when made into bread and sold at five cents a loaf, and at $37.50 when served in a good restaurant, while a bushel of potatoes, for which the North Dakota farmer receives thirty cents, when served "hashed brown" brings an advance of 450 per cent. Truly this does look as if the army of purveyors all along the line between the producer and consumer have a distinct advantage of those at either end. Against this fact, however, there stands a big item to the credit of the thrifty farmer, viz: he is certain of his own living and that of his family, on the best that the land affords, while of the surplus of his fields, garden and orchards there is sufficient even at first-hand prices to clothe and school his children, and provide a rest period for himself and wife in the Winter. This means hard work and intelligent work and to some extent disagreeable work, but it means also that self-respect will abide with plenty in the farmhouse.

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific Coast has been put into a very peculiar position by William Gohl, the Gray's Harbor agent. There are very few ports along the coast that have not experienced trouble with the union, but no charges of wholesale murder have ever been laid at its door. Gohl, however, is said to have threatened publicly that unless the "higher ups" in the union came to his rescue, he would disclose startling evidence against the union. Since this statement the union has hurried to the rescue, and it is now announced that it will employ the best legal talent obtainable to save the neck of the man who is accused of so many cold-blooded murders. It would have been much better for the reputation of the union had this assistance been proffered before Gohl made his threats. Complying with his request would seem to be an admission of fear that he might tell something startling about the terrors of sailors' unions on Grays Harbor.

One of the Washington forest rangers has been sent into the Olympic Mountains to kill cougars which have been making serious inroads on the small band of elk still remaining in that country. This is a plan that might be tried all along the coast. All of the hunters turned loose in the Oregon forests do not make anywhere near the havoc with the deer and elk that is made by the cougars, and the number of these pests, instead of decreasing, seems to be on the increase. If there are to be deer or elk left in the state for future generations, it will be necessary to pay a larger bounty on cougars or else turn the forest rangers into the woods to kill them off. It is not only in the Winter when food is scarce that the cougars make big kills of elk and deer, but in the Spring and Summer thousands of young elk and fawns are destroyed by these worthless marauders.

The German agrarians who have been so persistent in their demands for the exclusion of American meats do not expect to supply all of the shortage thus created with beef, pork, mutton, etc. Horseflesh is still a prominent factor in the food supply, although the Germans can no longer secure the rich, range-fed Oregon cayuses for food, as they did about a dozen years ago. According to Herr Calver, a prominent German Socialist, the number of horses slaughtered in Germany for food in 1908 was 136,575, compared with 146,627 in 1905. German horses are mostly small and dress down to about 300 pounds of marketable meat, so that even the large number slaughtered do not go very far in supplying the demand of the German meat eaters.

Glavis, straightforward fellow that he is, sneaked Dennett's personal letters away through the Commissioner's private secretary and boasts of the achievement. Mrs. Glavis, who is suing the gentleman for divorce, is now in Washington, promising something "sensational." She can doubtless throw light on the character of the estimable Mr. Glavis.

If the Saltair pavilion, when laden with the world's sportdom at the Jeffries-Johnson prizefight, should collapse into Great Salt Lake, that would be more effective than closing the town.

A Pittsburg preacher laments that soulless corporations are taking too many young men away from the ministry. But perhaps the ministry is better off.

Price of false hair has gone up. This is one of life's necessaries that the women must have. There seems no way of giving up the necessaries.

Peary's friends want Congress to make him a Rear-Admiral. They evidently think he doesn't need do anything more in the world

SAVINGS-BANK LEGISLATION

Recommendation that Sum Placed to Each Depositor's Credit Exceed $100.

PACIFIC GROVE, Cal., Feb. 1.—(To the Editor.)—There are two new postal savings bank bills before the public. The apparent limitations of both are such as to make it obvious that they are drawn rather in the interest of "the interests" than in the interest of the people.

Mr. Sulzer's bill, H. R. 18,159, has a limiting clause that seems framed to mystify the ordinary casual reader. Section 5 reads as follows: "That deposits may be made at any time in amounts of $1 or multiples thereof, but no deposits for less than $1 shall be received, and no single evidence of deposit shall be for a larger amount than $100 exclusive of interest."

This therefore limits the possible total to the credit of any depositor to $100, exclusive of interest.

The depositor's pass book is his "single evidence of deposit;" this may not exceed $100 "exclusive of interest." Had the clause "exclusive of interest" been omitted, it might have been supposed it was meant to read "no evidence of a single deposit shall exceed $100." So narrow a limitation must have been framed with the intent to minimize the usefulness of such banks.

The Senate bill is still better in that it places the limit to $500 instead of $100.

In Great Britain the amount to the credit of an individual depositor may be $1000, exclusive of interest; in Canada, $1500; in New Zealand interest is allowed on deposits up to $3000. Why should American citizens receive less liberal treatment?

All the reply one gets may be summed up in that one word of terrible omen and import, "Paternalism!"

In the last panic who were the parties most pertinaciously vociferous for "paternalism?" Who then yelled, "The Treasury to the rescue?" Who held out itching palms for $200,000,000 paternally placed at their disposal by their dear and much respected Uncle Sam? Paternalism for plutocrats was O. K., but, dear me, how dangerous would paternalism be if it dared to safeguard the savings of the common people!

Do not our people need and deserve institutions—yes, even postal savings banks—as liberal and efficient as those of any other country? Then why don't we have them?

EDWARD BERWICK,
President Postal Progress League of California.

DIFFICULTIES OF SISKIYOU.

But Maybe There Will Be a Joker Somewhere in the Deck.

New York Sun.

Is it truth or legend that Siskiyou County now seeks benevolent assimilation from California and asks to be joined with Southern Oregon as a state? Never will California consent to the secession of Shasta and parts adjacent, the brooks of trout, the haunts of Old Ephr'm, the grizzly; the trails over whose windings has wandered for almost three generations the fecund fancy of old man Sisson.

Never will California consent to the loss of its rhythmic boundaries, consecrated by its silver-tongued orators on many a stump,

> From Siskiyou to San Diego,
> From the Sierras to the sea.

Not even the mountains looking on Marathon and Marathon looking on the sea offer more compactly a statement of geographical truth.

Through a score of years memory yet treasures the recollection of the ground of the opposition which California set against so trivial a change as the creation of a new county. It unsettled geography, there were then 52 counties in the state, a figure easy to remember. As we recall it, Glenn County knocked long for admission and knocked in vain until at last it made its plea that in every deck there was a joker. Then it came in.

But to permit the secession of Siskiyou—California might as soon forego its Sierras.

Ed Howe's Philosophy.

Atchison Globe.

There are those who preach so much they haven't time to practice.

There are people who live in such a way that death is about the best luck that can befall them.

The sympathy of a man who isn't really sorry for you, is about the most unsatisfactory thing on earth.

It is always easier to remember what you have done for others than to recall favors extended to you.

"When I am feeling tough, nothing irritates me more than to meet a woman who is determined to scatter sunshine."—Drake Watson.

Those under 20 see the form of a good fairy in the flames of a grate fire, but those past that age more often conjure up a boogy man.

Everyone has his ghosts: To parents, the Thing that is most haunting is the man who will come along some day and steal the daughter.

"Although I am not very amiable in that line myself, I admire a man who loves his kin, and is cheerfully imposed on by them."—Parson Twine.

Talk all you please about exact Justice to all, it happens every day that a big dog chases a little dog away after the little dog has found it first.

American Women Wonderful.

New York Correspondence London Express.

The women of America are wonderful! Their versatility, acuteness, splendid mental energy, high ideals, firm grasp of subjects, added to their charming manners, tasteful dress, graceful deportment, are refined and feminine to a degree. We all know the brainy, masculine woman the world over. But the American, while she may be masculine in brain and alertness, is also feminine—emotions, if you like—in her makeup. She is a truly charming type. The American woman is also very practical, very inventive. She develops an idea and she works out her idea to its utmost possibilities. It may only be a new sort of neckband supporter, but she does not belittle her hobby. She brings her imagination into her work. She may be ultilitarian, but the successful business woman is artistic to her finger tips.

Everybody Paying for Autos.

Indianapolis Star.

We are paying a good deal for automobiles, even those of us who do not purchase machines. Our Bibles are costing us more for one thing, because the paper pulp and leather used in making them have gone up in price on account of the demand for these materials by automobile manufacturers. The same excuse is offered for a raise in the price of shoes; our rubber overshoes have also gone up because of the demand for rubber in the making of automobile tires. This knowledge will not add to the plain citizen's peace of mind when he leaps for life to escape from a machine bearing swiftly down on him.

Melisande.

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—In the Saturday Evening Post in the last sentence of the story "Up Against It," it speaks of hair like Melisande's. Who was this person and when can reference of her be found?

GEO. L. CHERRY.

Maeterlinck's play of "Pilleas and Melisande."

Suggested Collaboration.

Kansas City Times.

Richard Harding Davis is to be divorced. He might get Howard Chandler Christy to illustrate it.

GLAVIS' SNEAKING METHODS.

Used Dennett's Confidential Stenographer to Get Possession of Letters.

New York Sun.

The testimony of Mr. Louis R. Glavis before the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee on Saturday last contained this extraordinary statement, or (shall we say?) confession, as reported by the Washington Star:

Mr. Glavis continued his narrative. He said he was informed that some of the claimants had frankly discussed their hopes and aims with Commissioner Dennett. He told of his interview with Mr. Dennett upon the latter's arrival in Seattle. Glavis related how Dennett had used one Spalding as a stenographer and that upon Spalding reporting to him that Dennett was writing letters on the coal cases he had asked Spalding to furnish him with copies which was done. He felt that he ought to know about the letters. These letters were furnished the President by Glavis and were afterward submitted by the President to Secretary Ballinger.

In another account of Mr. Glavis' testimony Spalding is described as Mr. Glavis' own stenographer, loaned to Land Commissioner Dennett while the Commissioner was in Seattle.

Concerning the correspondence thus intercepted and obtained by Glavis for his own purposes the witness spoke further on Monday. We again quote from the Washington Star's report:

Glavis' attack seemed to center more yesterday upon Commissioner Dennett. He said he became convinced in the Summer of 1909 that Dennett was crooked and took steps to secure carbon copies of letters Dennett was writing back to Washington. Several of these letters were introduced in evidence. One was from Commissioner Dennett to H. H. Schwartz, chief of the field service.

In considering these singular disclosures of personal method, made under oath by Mr. Louis R. Glavis apparently in total unconsciousness of their significance as affecting the public estimation of himself, it is unnecessary to give a thought to the merits of the controversy between Mr. Gifford Pinchot and Secretary Ballinger.

Mr. Glavis, according to the report of his sworn testimony, "felt that he ought to know about the letters;" and he therefore instructed the stenographer, temporarily in Commissioner Dennet's employ and confidence, to furnish him with carbon copies, which he subsequently made public.

We think that comment is superfluous. What is the opinion of Mr. Gifford Pinchot, an honorable gentleman educated in the ethics of personal conduct and intercourse?

STEP HIGH AND LIVELY, LADIES

Then You Will Not Mind Those Car Steps.

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with much interest many letters in The Oregonian on high car steps. Now, I don't ride on streetcars very much, but I ride on them often enough to know that I can board any car and get off with perfect ease, and I am only a woman of average strength. The trouble is, there are so many women who want to be carried on a "chip." I mean, they want to be waited on. They can't do anything for themselves. If some of them would have to step high and step a little oftener, perhaps there would not be so many weakly women in the world. All they need is some exercise, and stepping off and on the streetcars as they are at the present time is only a small part of the exercise they need.

Some women are never satisfied. The easier they have things, the easier they want them.

MRS. J. C. C.

Truth in Advertising.

Bookkeeper for February.

A. W. McCann, advertising manager of Francis H. Leggett & Company, of New York City, in a recent address before an advertising class in Brooklyn, gave some interesting practical illustrations of the effectiveness of telling the truth in advertising. His long experience with a house which knows how the best results are obtained enables him to speak with authority. "No matter how well our story is told," he said, "if not founded on facts its effectiveness will perish. Untruth has no place in advertising because the common sense of the consumer challenges the merit of the article brought before its attention, and if every detail of goodness claimed for that article does not assert itself upon personal inspection, the interest of the individual is lost. A caution, therefore, which harmonizes with the first commandment of simplicity is framed in the second commandment, 'Thou shalt be truthful or silent.'"

Tennyson on His Rivals.

Elizabeth R. Chapman, in Putnam's

As we strolled back along the terrace towards the house, I was trying to tell the master how it was that I had called him so in a very special and intimate sense almost ever since I began to think.

"Well," he said, "there are many schools. There's Browning. He has a large following. He is a fine fellow—nothing small about him—no petty jealousies or rivalries. And there are others. . . . Swinbourne is a fine metricist." (It will be recollected that on another occasion he said of Mr. Swinbourne, "He is a reed through which all things blow into music.") "Latterly he has written some pretty things about children, but he got a good many of them from Victor Hugo."

The Sauer Kraut Philosopher.

Pacific Outlook, Grants Pass.

Probably it has not occurred to most people that if we all quit eating meat we shall have to find something to take its place, and whatever that thing is, it will immediately go up in price because of the increased demand, and we will be no better off than before. To boycott one article of food is to boom another. The best kind of boycott, my friends, is for a lot of you able-bodied ones, who are trying to live a French salad sort of life on a sauerkraut income in town, to overcome your squeamishness about soiling your hands and your antipathy for blue overalls, and get out and extract some of these articles of diet from the bosom of Mother Nature. That will soon fix the trust prices.

Standpatter's Change of Base.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

One of the curiosities of the present Congressional situation is the appeal of the Cannonites for that sort of executive interference from President Taft which they denounced when attempted by President Roosevelt. As the standpatters see it there are, it would seem, two varieties of executive interference. That which aids them as praiseworthy and patriotic, while the sort which interferes with their autocratic control of the House is an outrageous and dangerous invasion of their constitutional rights.

Washington and Lincoln.

TIGARD, Or., Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me which you think is the greater man, George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, and give some important reasons why.

SCHOOLGIRL.

Washington and Lincoln were too unlike to admit of a judicious parallel between them. Each was supremely great in his own way. The best advice we can give schoolgirls in general is to try to appreciate each of them at his true worth and not to worry over the question which was the greater.

Or Somethin'.

Puck.

"How is your wife this morning, Uncle Henry?"

"Well, I dunno. She's fallin' dredful slow; I wish she'd get well or somethin'."

LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

Senator Beveridge was replying to a defender of the sugar trust. "You remind me of a man at his brother's funeral. This man bent over the grave and closely watched the lowering of the coffin into the clean-cut rectangular chamber prepared for it. He heaved a sigh as the coffin came to a rest, and said to the undertaker heartily: 'It's the neatest fit I ever saw in my life. Come and have a drink on it.'"—Kansas City Star.

* * *

Oscar Hammerstein, at a studio tea, told, at a dinner in New York, a story about James Russell Lowell and a bad boy.

"A Boston woman," said Mr. Carman, "asked Lowell to write in her autograph album, and the poet, complying, wrote the line—

"'What is so rare as a day in June?'

"Calling at this woman's house a few days later, Lowell idly turned the pages of the album till he came to his own autograph.

"Beneath it was written in a childish scrawl—

"'A Chinaman with whiskers.'"

Mrs. Margaret Deland, the author, at the end of her recent arraignment of "the new woman" at the Waldorf-Astoria, said: "She is, the new woman I speak of, too selfish. She thinks only of herself. It must have been she in person who visited the Boston fortune teller.

"'Lady,' said the fortune teller, shuffling the cards, 'fate decrees that you will visit foreign lands. You will mingle in the court life of kings and queens. Conquering all rivals, you will marry the man of your choice, a tall, dark, handsome gent of distinguished ancestry—in fact, a peer of the realm.'

"'Will he be young?'

"'Yes; young and rich.'

"The visitor in her excitement clutched the seer's arm.

"'But how,' she cried eagerly, 'how am I to get rid of my present husband?'"—Kansas City Times.

* * *

In a suit tried in a Virginia town a young lawyer was addressing the jury on a point of law, when good naturedly he turned to the opposing counsel, a man of much experience, and asked:

"That's right, I believe, Colonel Hopkins?"

Whereupon Hopkins, with a smile of conscious superiority, replied:

"Sir, I have an office in Richmond wherein I shall be delighted to enlighten you on any point of law for a consideration."

The youthful attorney, not in the least abashed, took from his pocket a half dollar piece, which he offered to Colonel Hopkins, with this remark:

"No time like the present. Take this, sir; tell us what you know and give me the change."—Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

* * *

"Once in London," said Fuller Mellish recently, "I heard an American phrase taken in its literal sense, much to general amusement.

"Two New York women were purchasing some very expensive woolen underwear as a present for the husband of one of them.

"'What do you think of such a present for George?' said New York woman number one.

"'It will tickle him to death,' said the second.

"'Excuse me, madam,' interposed the clerk, 'I can guarantee that it is the finest and softest merino, and will do nothing of the kind.'"—New York Telegraph.

Dr. Robert Wood, of Johns Hopkins University, was complimented by a young lady, at a dinner in Baltimore, on the artificial mirages that he had succeeded in making in his laboratory.

"'It is by attention to the least details,'" said Dr. Wood, with a smile, "'that one succeeds in experiments of this kind. One must look after details like—er—like the landlord's wife.

"'Tommy,' said the landlord's wife to her little boy, 'who is that talking on the doorstep to your father?'

"'It's a divinity student,' Tommy answered, 'who is looking for a furnished room.'

"'Hurry, then,' said the mother, 'and walk up and down the hall whistling a hymn.'"

THE EAGLE AND THE FISHHAWK

Here's a New Application of the Old School-Book Story.

Tacoma Tribune.

Secretary Ballinger's statement that Alaska is a prize package the full value of which no one yet knows should tend to make Uncle Sam keep a good firm hold on it until he has had time to poke about in its sofas and find out what is hidden therein.—Boston Monitor.

This for the text; and herein lies the radical difference between the Boston man's viewpoint and the viewpoint of the crude "rough neck" of the rude West. We of the West are deluding ourselves with the self-pleasing idea that the wild lands of the country, here in the West, are open to discovery, prospect and entry by we of the West or any other citizen who has the hardihood to go out into the wilderness and hunt for timber, coal, gold, copper, gypsum or whatever. And if we find anything we delude ourselves with the belief that we have the right to take it up, in accordance with the laws of the country, under which all these things have been taken up by other prospectors and pioneers, from the days of the Pilgrim fathers down to date.

Not so the Boston man; the natural resources of the West are for the public. And the "public" is the Boston man—at least while he don't really go out into the wilderness and take it up, he wants a death grip mortgage on it. What right have these rude "rough necks" of the rowdy West to take up lands that belong to the public? The Government must shut out the people, or, better yet, allow the hardy prospector to find something and then drive him off and take it, as the eagle does with the fishhawk, in the old Sander's Union reader.

American Honored in Paris.

Current Literature.

There are many art lovers who know little or nothing regarding the work of Elizabeth Nourse, yet this talented American lady has been working in Paris for upward of 20 years, and has received the plaudits of artists, no less distinguished than Puvis de Chavannes, Rodin and Bernard. She is especially dear to the French heart, and grows more so with each year. The simplicity, the exquisite womanliness and the subtle sense of intimacy which pervade her pictures have completely won the heart of a nation, which, however complex in other ways, looks always to woman for the ideal of purity and sweetness. In the art of Elizabeth Nourse that ideal is fulfilled.

Natural Philosophy.

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—If a solid wooden ball one foot in diameter and a solid iron ball one foot in diameter were dropped at the same instant from a height of 500 feet, which will strike the earth first, or will they strike at the same instant. R. M. KAR.

Omitting from consideration the slight effect of atmospheric resistance, they would strike the ground at the same instant.

Most Insolent Suggestion.

Columbia State.

A San Antonio dispatch states that a Texas man has swapped 100,000 acres of land for 100,000 gallons of whisky, but it should be borne in mind that a great deal of inferior whisky is manufactured nowadays.