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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 30, 1910.

AN ENDLESS CONTROVERSY.

There always will be a conflict between wage-earners and wage-payers. It is a conflict whose roots lie in the basis of human nature.

At Portland just now there is controversy between employers and employed, in many lines of industry. The controversy is as to wages and hours, and moreover as to "closed shop."

Now it is clear that this is an insoluble problem. It is clear, too, that any effort to adjust the requirements of time and place and industry, and subject moreover to the element of human nature always present in it, that there can be no solution of it that will stand for any length of time.

Some of the names of citizens who were arrested last Sunday and fined upon their own plea of guilty for breaking the speed limit would create surprise, but for the fact that all men are mortal when assailed by the temptations of the automobile.

Justice Brewer's most interesting traits was his superiority to justice in various courts. The surprising degree he was free from the monastic restraint which many judges find it impossible to overcome and which deprives them of much influence upon men and affairs outside the routine of the law.

Confirmation of the report that James J. Hill is interested in the big deal by which the land grant of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Road Company changes hands will be most agreeable to Portland, as well as to other portions of the state.

Systematic and intelligent effort will soon be made by the street-cleaning department to keep the hard-surface streets of Portland free from debris of various kinds and to flush such streets as are on a grade so that the dirt work to be done effectively.

Colonist rates are in effect and the people on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains can escape all those ills by coming to Portland. Weather yesterday, fair; temperature, 55.

Irrigation is becoming a fad in the Valley. Seventy-five barrels of "booze" were unloaded at Salem yesterday.

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may be, the order shows that the Interstate Commerce Commission has a power much greater than it is generally credited with.

FREE COUNTRY, THIS IS. Republicans will hold assembly to recommend candidates for nomination. These candidates may win at the primary; and then the nominations will go to the general election, for approval or rejection.

What harm, or wrong, or impropriety, in this course? None whatever. The political action of every citizen will still be open and free. Every man can do just as he pleases.

The assembly is a method of organization and concentration without which no political party can exist. Democrats as well as Republicans will hold assemblies to recommend candidates.

Republican assembly is to be an effort to make the Republican party Oregonian, and to give it a chance to win. The assembly will suggest candidates—that only; and they who don't want to vote for these candidates can't be made to do so.

Free country, this is. They who want no assembly or its candidates, who want no party organization, or effort to concentrate for effective party action, needn't have it.

There have been three notable birthday anniversaries celebrated in this city within the week—those of Judge George H. Williams, who attained his eighty-seventh, Rev. John Flynn, who completed his ninety-third, and General Ben Simpson, who completed his ninety-second year.

Each of these names has a place peculiar in the history of the state, and each represents a man of still unclouded mentality and of remarkably well-preserved physical frame.

The Oregonian is glad to join in the popular expression of good will and appreciation for these venerable men and the work for which their names and years stand, and wishes them as many returns of this birthday week as they are able to enjoy in bodily health and with cheerfulness of spirit.

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The thing is inexplicable except upon the hypothesis that they encountered their special temptation in the form of exhilarating speed, and fell. The fine imposed was probably too light to brace them up for the next encounter with this special form of temptation.

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Oregon will break all records. Oregon, despite the fact that it still holds the larger area of unoccupied farming land than any other state in the West, must still meet the cheap land competition of Canada, where the government and the railroads are offering extraordinary inducements to settlers.

Under the homestead law it is impossible for anyone to secure legal title to unsurveyed public land, but occupancy pending survey is recognized as giving priority claim to the land after survey, under what is known as "squatters' rights."

Persons who are interested in the "divorce evil" may discover upon reflection that the history of the Butler family is not without its lesson.

The decision of the Oregon Supreme Court, affirming the authority of Portland's city government to assess cost of water mains to benefited lots, is an important step in the solution of a troublesome municipal dispute.

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Settlers may now get justice possible to get title to lands in the Forest Reserves. Tacoma Tribune.

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LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

Rear-Admiral Rogers of the Navy tells the following story, a conversation he heard between two old sailors:

"It was a rat ship I was sailin' in the trip I made of the saliback. 'One of the dinars of rat ships I ever know. They was rats in it from bow to stern, rats in the hold, in the galley, in the steerage, in the cabin, in the old man's room—everywhere. Rats, Northin' but."

"Rimey it got so bad we had to put in the galley and make a cesspool to dock and fumigated. I was on deck an' saw them rats leavin' I counted 'em. They was fifteen million of 'em. 'Bimeby they was fifteen million other. 'Ain't that a lot of rats! Are you sure?'"

"Sure? Yes I'm sure. They was fifteen million rats, and I counted 'em. More than that, every rat weighed a half pound. They was big fat, sassy ones, I'm tellin'."

"Fifteen million rats, and every one weighed a half pound, and they all came off your ship. That's seven million and a half pounds of rats. Say, Jim, what was the reason for that?"

"'Of, about a hundred and fifty tons.' 'Judge. The Sunday school lesson had been on the efficacy of prayer, and the teacher had done her best to instill into the youthful mind the belief that our prayers are answered. There was one doubting Thomas, however, who insisted that he knew better."

"I know they ain't," persisted Tommy doggedly. "What makes you think so?" asked the teacher.

"Don't think it, I know it," replied Tommy. "You know the angels brought a new baby to our house last week."

"Yes, I heard about that," said the teacher. "Now, surely, that was an answer to prayer."

"It was, nite!" replied Tommy, disgustedly. "Why, for six months I've been praying for a goat!"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Ellis H. Parker, detective of Burlington county, New Jersey, is a great gunner. He often goes shooting in Salem county, where he knows all the men in public life and the men in private life.

Lord Aberdeen, who is resigning his position of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, tells the following amusing story about himself: He arrived at his country estate in the morning, where he was expecting a telegram to await him.

"I remember once," continued Parker, "that a farmer down in Salem county had a calf which he wanted to teach to drink. He just went out the morning drink, but all his efforts were unavailing."

"What do you think of this, Mandy?" he asked his wife. "This calf won't drink."

"Wall, Jake, said Mandy, 'that's too bad. But if you really want to teach that calf to drink, you better elect him sheriff of Salem county.'"

"Which says a lot for the good old days," added Parker.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Vanishing Sluts of Bowery. New York Press.

The cleaning up by Captain "Mike" Galvin and his police legion of that besotted territory bordering on the Bowery will elicit the applause of every citizen on friendly terms with his native New York.

Washington, D. C., Cor. Brooklyn Eagle.

Aguinado As He Is Today.

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Aguinado is living the life of a country gentleman on a small estate just outside of the city of Washington.

For a couple of years, said Manuel L. Quezon, the Philippine commissioner to Congress, lived with Aguinado in his home. We were on the most intimate terms. Remarkable as it may seem, I have not heard him make any comment whatever upon the change in the government of the islands.

Can't Quite Tell.

The Hotel Vanderbilt, planned for New York City, will be a nice result of 21 stories. The article telling about it mentions the sum of \$4,000,000. Whether this is the cost of the hotel or the expense of putting up it overnight is not quite clear.

Some Figures From the Union Scale and the Cost of Living.

Weekly Consumption and Trade Reports. Special Agent Henry Studnicka, who has been making an investigation of wages, cost of living and the general condition of the laboring population in the London district, submits the following report, in part:

Building Trades—Working hours per week, 52; Wages per hour: Cabinetmakers, 21 cents; painters, 18 cents; upholsterers, 20 to 24 cents; machinists, 20 to 28 cents; carvers, 19 to 22 cents; chairmakers, 20 cents.

Boilermakers and Steel Shipbuilding Trades—Working hours per week in shop, 54; for repair work outside, 48. Wages per hour: Boilermakers, \$2.00; iron workers and angle-iron smiths, \$1.94; riveters, \$5.32; calkers, \$3.48; hold-ers, \$5.56. For outside work wages are about \$2.21.

Compositors—Working hours per week, 52.5. Wages per week in jobbing trade and on weekly newspapers, \$2.40. Turners—Working hours per week, 54. Wages per hour: Fitters and wiremen, 19 cents; armature winders, 18 cents; cable joiners, 18 cents.

Wages per week: Foremen, \$5.51; first-class hands, \$7.29; second-class hands, \$5.80. Engineering Trades—Working hours per week, 54. Wages per week: Turners, fitters, coopersmiths, brass finishers, borers, slotters, millers, die sinkers and press-fitters, \$1.74; smiths, \$1.74 to \$1.82; millwrights, \$10.33; iron foundry, \$9.75 to \$10.46; patternmakers, \$10.70.

London City Police—These policemen work 48 hours per month, with board: Chief steamship engineer, \$68 to \$82; second engineer, \$48 to \$58; third engineer, \$36.40 to \$47.70; fourth engineer, \$28.80 to \$36.40; firemen, \$28.80; trimmers, \$19.46 to \$21.89; able seamen, \$19.46 to \$21.89; able seamen (sailing vessel), \$14.60. Dock stevedores receive 16 cents per hour for loading and unloading vessels.

Motor Omnibus Drivers and Conductors—These drivers and conductors work 15 to 16 hours. Conductors who collect the fares receive from \$1.46 to \$1.70 per day.

Horse Omnibus Drivers and Conductors—The drivers and conductors of the horse omnibuses receive from \$1.66 to \$1.70 per day of 15 hours. Length of service for the company is a factor in determining the wages.

Coal and Gas—These policemen work 48 hours per month, with board: Chief steamship engineer, \$68 to \$82; second engineer, \$48 to \$58; third engineer, \$36.40 to \$47.70; fourth engineer, \$28.80 to \$36.40; firemen, \$28.80; trimmers, \$19.46 to \$21.89; able seamen, \$19.46 to \$21.89; able seamen (sailing vessel), \$14.60. Dock stevedores receive 16 cents per hour for loading and unloading vessels.

London Letter Carriers—This is a part of the government civil service. The apprentice letter carrier starts at 23 shillings a week. When employed he receives \$1.53 and is gradually advanced to \$2.51 per week, according to time of service and record.

Common Laborers—Common day laborers receive for various work from \$1.39 to \$1.46 for 8 hours' work, double time being given for Sunday work.

From all my interviews I am constrained to arrive at one conclusion, that the unskilled laborer in this district is not getting any better off. (\$4.56) per week at steady employment and that even some of the mechanical trades, which but a few years ago were not earning over 25 shillings (\$6.67) a week on a general average the year round.

Hostlers and cartmen receive \$1.50 cash weekly, or with the addition of coal, 20 cents an hour. Gas and light are included in the price. The average obtained in the three districts on each article named.

Articles. Price. Apple, second and third quality, 4 to 9. Bread, four pounds, 24 to 32. Cheese, Canadian, pound, 14 to 16. Canned corn, 10 to 12. Currant, pound, 8 to 9. Eggs, 10 to 15. Fish. Sole, pound, 8 to 12. Various kinds, pound, 4 to 8. Bacon, pound, 16 to 24. Frozen, pound, 10 to 14. Fresh, pound, 10 to 14. Milk, fresh, pint, 4 to 6. Oranges, 2 to 3. Potatoes, hundredweight, 72 to 96. Prunes, pound, 6 to 10. Raisins, lowest quality, pound, 4 to 6. White, pound, 5. Yellow, pound, 4 to 6. Tomatoes, pound, 3 to 4. Vegetables, 10 to 15. Total, \$3.66.

To this must be added the cost of rent, which amounts to about 20 cents per week for one room to not less than two shillings (48 cents) per week, and for a three-room flat from 8s to 10s (\$1.04 to \$2.43) per week.

One of the Seattle newspapers last week told of a woman who had been searching the continent for a place where she could sleep and had decided on Seattle. This comes very near being a joke on the Elliott Bay city.

Five Jokes in Tacoma. Tacoma Ledger.

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Harney Valley is under water. That means lots of grass and fat cattle.

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