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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 law which attempts to force time and place and character of work, 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 work 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.

Aviation is another source of family quarrels. Few wives have mourning garb in the wardrobe.

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 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.

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

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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BRITISH WAGES AND COST OF FOOD 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; milliners, 18 cents; upholsterers, 20 to 24 cents; machinists, 20 to 28 cents; carvers, 19 to 22 cents; chairmakers, 20 cents.

Motor Omnibus Drivers and Conductors—The drivers and conductors of the motor omnibuses in London and the motorman receive from \$1.70 to \$1.94 per day of 15 to 16 hours.

London City Police—These policemen work 48 hours per week, with overtime and their pay is \$6.95 (minimum) to \$10.35 (maximum) per week.

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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 the cabin, and I was on deck to dock and fumigated. I was on deck an' saw them rats leavin' I counted 'em. They was fifteen million of 'em. 'Fifteen million rats, that's what it was. '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? Was it a rat ship?"

"'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. 'That 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.

"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 next morning with a bucket of milk and a 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.

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. 'So I went up to the nearest porter,' says his lordship, and asked him to get a telegram for me. In the station master's office whether there was a telegram for me."

"There's none for you, sir," replied the porter. "When did you get the office, and there's only one telegram there, and that's for Lord Aberdeen."

"Just then another porter who knew me approached me and explained the position to him, remarking jocularly that the first porter evidently did not think I looked the part."

"By way of unassuming me," concludes Lord Aberdeen, "he promptly replied: 'Never mind, my lord, if you don't look it, you feel it!'—Kansas City Independent.