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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1910.

"CONSCIENCE" AS AN "ORACLE." "Man's conscience is the oracle of God," exclaims Byron in one of his impassioned moods. He was in impassioned mood whenever he said any-

thing worth quotation or remem-

The statement, however, requires qualification. Man's conscience mus not be interpreted on any limited The individual or local conscience may not be the oracle of God; probably is not. But the conscience of the race, in the long run, is. Cer-God but through the conscience of ally to accept facts and common-sense man. So-called revelation, through the operations of Nature, under fixed and inviolable physical laws, tends to elimination of divinity, and to suggestion and confirmation of atheism. These laws, in all their operations, are rigorous and invariable. The human mind is, however, a force of a different kind. It has some power of choice. Man can say yea or nay.

The individual may be greatly in er-or; usually is. His conscience, therefore, is not a sure guide. Still less is it an "oracle." Here is an error that must be rejected. Just as phil-ology was retarded for centuries by the dogma that Hebrew was the par-ent of all human languages, so ethical science now is hampered by the assumption that its subject matter can be found in the moral consciousness of the individual alone. For that moral consciousness is but the reflex particular social conditions, like them has a history that needs to be traced. Nor has it, at any stage of its development, exactly the same status as another moral consciousness, under other skies, at other latitudes, in different environments, and within different civilizations. Moral phenomena vary as dialects vary, as social conditions vary. Polygamy once was deemed moral, and among some races or peoples is so deemed to this Slavery was deemed moral, in ur own country, down to our own

the problems of life and mind and soul and spirit and morals, has been fought out and brought to a landing place, where all accept it as final truth, may be called the oracle of God. Not till then. The conscience of the individual alone, or of any particular community, at any given time in his-tory, is a most unsure criterion, as a moral or ethical guide, since the tenlency of the individual or of the particular community is always to adjust Its conscience to its interests, real or supposed. Only the influence of a wider world can break it down; and this influence often can be supported only through war and enforced with arms. This, indeed, is human his-

tory, from the beginning till now. Undoubtedly, in righting wrong, great wrong, possibly greater, often is done; but truth and right are results, in the long run, of this jar of ensciousness, is arrived at in no other way.

### GOOD FORTUNE IN A DISASTER.

The Santa Clara disaster belongs same class with that of the lucky Kentucky, which foundered on the Atlantic Coast a few months ago while en route to the Pacific. The is used advisedly "lucky" connection with both the Santa Clara and the Kentucky, for it was fortu-nate indeed that there was no loss of life in either disaster. The Santa Clara was not an old boat, but frequent sinking spells and other mishaps in northern waters had left her such a 'thing of shreds and patches" that it is somewhat surprising that she has kept affoat throughout the Winter storms. The Pacific Coast steamship routes throughout the Winter and Spring are favorite haunts for some very severe storms, but rare indeed do these gales reach a point of severity where a staunch, well-equipped vessel cannot ride them out.

Unfortunately, for years a considerable number of the vessels on these have been either cast-off craft from the Atlantic or coast-built vessels that have outlived their usefulness. The men who handle these ves sels, through long familiarity with the dangers of the ocean, acquire a con-tempt for its power and its dangers, and naturally take chances which would make more timid individuals It was this foothardiness that cost the lives of nearly the en-tire crew of the steamer Czarina a few months ago. It also cost the lives of more than 100 people when the steamship Columbia, rushing at full speed through a fog when she should have been proceeding with utost caution, was sent to the bottom

From the reports at hand regarding the Santa Clara disaster, it would m that the craft, weakened by her ormer accidents, was driven over a dangerous bar into a heavy sea, which promptly wrenched and twisted her into a sieve-like condition that forced her passengers to take to the boats in order to save their lives. The old wooden steamers at their best could not stand the strain which a and the timid traveling public which. either by inclination or necessity, travel by water, will rejoice when the last of these old hulks have been re-

The coastwise traffic in and out of Portland is growing so rapidly that the public is certainly entitled to a better service than has been supplied by vessels of the Santa Clara type. The new Beaver and the Bear, which will soon be on the route, should be immediately supplemented by a suffi- words are little more than arbitrary strength was not so heavily taxed. tions.

cient number of good vessels to render it impossible for ancient, unseaworthy craft to secure any business.

Conservation is evidently a scheme of reform that needs to be saved from its foolish friends. Great works and oratory have been wrought in its name, yet as a panacea for the Nation's land ills, it is found sorely lacking.

The public is learning from n practical knowledge and of scientific study that conservation of sources does not need vast wilds of forests; that forests may even dimin-ish flow of streams and impair interests of irrigation and power; that forests do not prevent floods and that their cutting does not make droughts; that conservation has stopped the opening of new food-producing lands in forest areas of the West; that it has largely nullified state control of streams: that in its name the greatest land frauds of the Nation have been perpetrated -those of lieu lands; that It up a devouring system of officialdom, with swarms of officials, who in time threaten to consume more than they will save; that the supposed charm of its name has been laid hold of by one set of officials and another and also by groups of politicians, to wreak vengeance on one another-that, in short, much of its doctrine is mistaken and false and needs practical, mmon-sense correction.

Conservation will be an effective, permanent policy only on rational ba-The process of working it down to that basis is now in motion. That is what makes its radical enthusiasts, its noisy editors and its Pinchots rail and roar. But they are bound eventu-

#### A MODEL FOR AMERICANS.

The question is often asked, "How shall we celebrate the Fourth of July if we do away with the firecrackers and toy pistols?" It indicates the de-gree of our subjection to the force of bad habits that we can think of no other way to commemorate the Nation's birth except by making a loud

and unintelligent noise. Those who would like to do some thing more human may find useful suggestions in the celebration which the ancient city of Chester, in England, has planned for July 18. It is arranged in eight episodes, each of which represents an event in the his-tory of the city. Three thousand persons take part in the pageant. Many beautiful costumes will be worn. The historical characters will be pictured with reasonable fidelity and tableaux of great complexity and splendor will be shown. To plan such a celebration requires more intelligence than to shoot off a ton or two of firecrackers, but on the other hand, the results are not only enjoyable, but they are educative and free from danger.

It does not speak well for the American people that they seem unable to arrange celebrations of this sort. arrange celebrations of this sort. Other nations carry them out with unbounded enthusiasm in the presence of vast crowds of hilarious people, but the only thing we can think of to commemorate the greatest event in modern history is to set off bunches of Chinese fireworks. If China never had been discovered doubtless could not have celebrated the Fourth of July at all.

### AN IMPORTANT CONVENTION

A significant gathering is the Open River and Freight Association now in convention at Albany. Its delegates, four hundred all told, are prominent business men and agriculturalists from the thriving cities and towns and the rich farming sections of the Willam-ette Valley. The name of the assoette Valley. The name of the asso-clation indicates the purpose that has brought its delegates together. Its proceedings, reciting the conditions of traffic as they affect the business and agricultural prosperity of the large section represented and the remedia measures proposed, will be of general interest. Its rallying cry will be, "Betopinions. A true moral conscience, or ter transportation facilities on the Willamette River and the better

freight rates will follow. An open river is the Willamette Valley farmers' dream. It is the dream not less of the up-country merchant and tradesman. It means rural, subrural and municipal advance up and down and all along the river from Eugene to Portland. It means a Federal appropriation large enough to compass this object by properly di-rected dredging and by devices to turn and confine the waters of the Williamette into navigable channels, and it means a steam equipment adequate and dependable for carrying nonperishable freight without unneces-sary delay from one end of the val-ley to the other—from the producing section to the final shipping points for the wide and ever-widening markets in various directions. It means indirectly the abolishment of the 10cent differential freight rate by rail from Portland to Willamette River points on Eastern shipments-the demand for which was the direct cause for the call of this convention. To all of these things the people of the Willamette Valley feel that they are entitled and must have.

### SPELLING MATCHES.

The county spelling matches which Superintendent Belt of Yamhill County has inaugurated may do something to stay the devastating course of the spelling reformer. Under his baleful influence it has become rather fashionable to be a bad speller. One who writes "dow" for "dough" may excuse himself by saying that he is a disciple of the phonetic method and his accuser will be put to shame. There is now a large and wicked band of people in the country who delib-erately pledge themselves to spell certain words differently from the dictionary and they glory in their in-They unblushingly iquity. that it is the dictionary which ought to be ashamed, not they. Superintendent Belt's spelling matches will help to show them up in their true light. They will inspire the young people of Yamhill County with a laudable ambition to spell correctly, even if few of them ever attain to perfection in that difficult art.

Good spelling does not seem to be so much a matter of reason or even memory as a kind of visualization. The person sees how the word ought to lock and he spells it so that it will conform to his ideal.

In phonetic languages, when one hears the sound of a word, he knows at once how to spell it. That is not the case in English. With us there is seldom much relation between the sound and the letters we select to represent it. Many of our written

symbols of the idea like Chinese characters. Of course, it is very difficult for children to master the spelling of these arbitrary symbols. They obey

no rules and conform to no analogies It is said by pedagogues that with phonetic spelling the time consumed children in learning to read and spell would be diminished fully onehalf. The German schoolboy, whose language is fairly phonetic, is as far advanced in his studies at seven years as our boys at eleven. Still the difficulties of English orthography, great as they are, can be overcome with patience and such efforts as Superintendent Belt is making are in the right direction.

MR. BRYAN CLAIMS VINDICATION. Mr. Bryan rises to remark that his course in 1896 is now fully vindi-Events have established, he

says, the quantitative theory money, which he asserts was denied by his opponents then. That theory or principle was not de-

Prices always depend, to an extent, on the quantity or volume of money. Prices rose greatly after discovery and production of gold in larger quantities in California and Australia. What was denied in 1896 was that a ratio could be established upon which silver and gold could be coined freely, and that the coinage of the metals could be made to circulate on equal terms. Bryan put the ratio at 16 to 1. What was asserted, and established by appeal to experience, was that the dearer metal would disappear and the cheaper metal be-come the sole standard. The country was convinced that it could not afford to shift its money basis from gold to silver standard.

Moreover, it was contended that there was gold enough, and would be gold enough, in the world to answer the purposes of a single gold standard, and that this standard was desirable because of its uniformity in the commerce of the world. All this has proven true.

Some now think there is too much gold, and that this is a source or cause of high prices. Others think higher prices have come from a multitude of causes operating together. Moreover, that prices are not too high.

During the past ten years there has ndeed, been very great increase of the production of gold. It has been a cause, undoubtedly, of the great expansion of industry and commerce. There is money metal enough, without silver, as a primary money metal. But there is and always will be very large use of silver as token and subsidiary money. This was pointed out at all times by advocates of the gold stand-

New processes of treating ores have brought out gold, during the past ten years, in unusual quantities. Such increase of gold production completely vindicates the advocates of the single gold standard. If Mr. Bryan thinks he is vindicated, no one can

grudge him the satisfaction.

Increase of gold production, as predicted in 1896, will continue. By the new methods of working low grade and refractory ores the world's production of gold has been increased even beyond expectation. It doesn't vindicate Mr. Bryan's prediction, however, nor establish his theory, but the reverse. Prices, he insisted, would always be low, under a single gold standard. His party now seems to be about to make its appeal to the country, on the ground that the gold stand-ard makes prices too high. Will it then propose free coinage of silver, so as to dethrone gold, as a remedy for high prices?

### "UNHAPPY" AMERICANS

Is it true, as declared by Professor Albion W. Small, of Chicago University, that "modern Americans are the most unhappy people who have ever lived upon the face of the earth"? Is it further true that this is because "we are the most prosperous people, the freest people and the most highly educated"? Memory running back three score years and more seems, at a cursory glance, to justify this "The good old days," we are wont to call them, stalked by the ghost of lost youth, stand out in the glamour of their far-away sim-the glamour of their far-away simplicity as care free and happy, by contrast with the heavy responsibility of prosperity which wearles and makes unhappy the modern American, seeking to keep up a modern home and acquire wealth through modern business methods. Irking at these ac-companiments of prosperity we are at times prone to join in the refrain: Backward, turn backward, oh Time, in your flight,

unmindful for the moment of the Slough of Despond into which rank and file would be plunged to the neck, were the wish expressed in the doleful

words of our plaint granted, Backward? Let us see. foreground of the picture, if the scene is laid in the Middle West, is a log cabin; if in New England, an un painted, weather-beaten frame building with small-paned windows and low dark walls. The thud of the handloom and the subdued buzz of the spinning wheel join with voices of children in confined space, quarreling or at play, are the sounds borne down across the years. The fare is frugal and coarse; the children flock to the cond table," having waited, ill content and clamorous, while their elders consumed the best of everything in sight. Flickering tallow candles, weeping great, greasy tears that co-agulated on one side of the iron candlestick because of the draft that came in through the cracks about the cosely-fitting door or the bleak windward side of the house, served to light the breakfast and supper table in

There was literally no provision made for the comfort of the household beyond the barest needs shelter, warmth and food; none was possible under the hard conditions that prevailed. Would a return to these conditions, and the thousand and one details of everyday life of which they were a part, insure ease and tranthe loss of which plaintively and universally deplored? Of course, everybody knows that it would not. Nor is it true that the American people are less happy today than were their forebears, or that their responsibilities are greater than those of the men and women who toiled from daylight until dark that they might compass the necessities of life for themselves and their families. "My mother was the most hard-worked person that I ever knew," said a gray-haired woman, speaking of the "good old times," recently. After a After a moment's reflection she added: "ex-cept my father, and he was much bet-

ter able to work than she was, and his

She died at 40, the mother of twelve children, without having abated a single year the heavy labors that fell to her lot; he, in that the man's part in the programme of life as played upon the stage of the 'good old days' was not so heavy, lived to be 75, though his later years were full of suffering from rheumatism, due to exposure to the weather in his early battle for a livelihood and from dys-pepsia due to the hog and hominy

diet of his early years."

"Then," she continued in reminiscent strain, "there were the little graves in the pasture lot, the nesses and the doctor's bills, which to do their best toward paying always hung over the family and were a weight upon the poor resources of our parents. Good old days? Would I return to them? Oh, no indeed, these days are good enough for me.'

not a statement of fancy. It is that of bare and bitter fact as worked out in the dawn of American civilization in hundreds of homes and in thousands of lives. To assume that intelligent people were happier in those days than they are now is to libel the common sense or to fall utterly to appreciate the self-denying efforts of those who laid in the wilderness the foundation of our prosperity as a people and a Nation. Americans the most unhappy people in world? Then, indeed, they are most unappreciative and ungrateful.

The magical call of "wireless" has again saved a shipload of people. So important a feature of modern naviga-tion has this new agency for summoning help become that its efficiency and value are demonstrated on all kinds of craft from the magnificent liners like the Republic to dilapidated hulks like the Santa Clara. No other form of death fills and thrills the people with horror and causes more poig-nant, life-long grief, than death by shipwreck. Measured from this standard, the name of Marconi, the original inventor of wireless telegraphy, will live through all history as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind. It is impossible to estimate the vast number lives that might have been saved in shipwreck had wireless telegraphy appeared a century earlier. It equally impossible to estimate the number that will be saved by its universal use on ships of the present and the future.

A substantial increase is announced In the wages of 225,000 employes of the subsidiary companies of the Steel The advance will become effective May I and will amount to about \$9,000,000 per year. Before we offer up, for their generosity to the workingman, any thanks to the Carnegles, Coreys, Schwabs and other dis-tributors of largesse to libraries and chorus ladies, it will be well to note that even the Steel Trust expects the consuming public to continue the practice of keeping the dividends fat. With this billion-dollar trust paying greater profits than any other organized in-dustry that the world ever saw, there is not much danger of any serious inconvenience by distributing a few millions of dollars among the employesespecially as the consumer called on to make up the slight increase several times over

The wife of a Colorado laundryman has discovered that she is heiress to an immensely wealthy estate in the Island of Martinique, and incidentally a princess of royal blood. This ought to admit of a matrimonial transaction in which all the money could be kept at home. So many daughters of miners are obliged to go abroad to purchase royal husbands, that there is an economic waste in the proceeding. If the wife of the laundryman is of royal blood, the children ought to be eligible to enough of the title to make them attractive catches for those who like to fawn at the feet of royalty, even when it is a little off color.

A Chicago lawyer was obliged to sue to recover a fee of \$5000 for advising woman that it would be on his death bed a man worth a number who might be picked up who would enter no serious objection to paying a \$5000 fee for advice which would enable them to land a \$250,000 husband, although he did not feel very well.

Taft's Administration is making There is steady economy of expenditure, increasing revenues and a general industrial prosperity. But, indeed, what does all that come to? We don't want contentment and satisfaction; or, if we have them, we want something else.

If you are "a little, round, fat man," you must not carry five thousand in coin with you, for one of Mr. Burns' hirelings might catch you and return the money to the safety deposit vault. This is part of a romance in real life.

California is improving in spots. Regents of the Berkeley institution say the panel figures at the entrance, four men and four women, must be draped or removed. Their nudity is too much altogether.

Gifford Pinchot got kicked out of office and hied to the Big Boss in Italy to tell about it. It was supposed the new style of politics had put the ban on appealing to the boss One fact in connection with the

If they do not strike oil, they will strike something. Prices are too high and everybody is too prosperous. Therefore, let us change the policy and the administration, and get back to first and sim-

much-talked-about off fields near Vale

is the number of Seattle men locating

Again announcement is made that delinquent contractors will be fined That is evidently a mistake in tense. They will be found, as usual.

Miss Elkins' Duke Abruzzi called on Roosevelt and went away smiling. T. R. probably told him "Faint heart ne'r won fair lady." A fifteen-story passenger station is

to be erected in St. Louis, probably to exchange traffic with aerial lines. Democrats think their outlook very bright. But they should wait until Bryan comes home.

The census taker minds his own business when he asks leading ques-

POOR OLD NEW YORK'S FLAT LIFE st Sympathy Offered by a Paper of Missouri.

Kansas City Post.
FOR RENT-Sultes of 14 rooms and five baths to sultes of 54 rooms and nine baths.
Bental \$6560 to \$12,000.
Have you ever seen one of those \$12,000-a-year flats?
The buildings are 12 stories high, and

the apartments are arranged so that there are only one or two on a floor. Each apartment is equipped with vacu-um cleaners, dressing-rooms, millinery closets, plate-glass shelves, individual wine vaults, cedar-lined closets, and every earthly and unearthly thing ever invent ed to make of a woman a useless para site and of a man a restless, discontented

There is a man in livery to open the big front door. A man in livery to run
the magnificent elevator. There are servants' quarters up under the roof and
there's an individual automobile garage
in the basement for every individual flat.
What would you take to have to give up
your home your real home with a variety your home-your real home, with a yard for the baby to play in, and a porch for the dog to consider his bailtwick, and room enough on the hearthstone for the old gray cat, and a place up in the garret to hang your old fishing pole, and a corner in the basement to put the littlest bank and a corner in the basement to put the littlest bank and and the basement to put the littlest bank and and the basement to put the littlest bank and and the basement to put the littlest bank and and the basement to put the littlest bank and and the basement to put the littlest bank and and and a port of the littlest bank and and a port of the littlest bank and and a port of the littlest bank and a port of the littlest bank and a port of the littlest bank and and a port of the littlest bank oy's sled and the biggest girl's roller

For Rent-Sultes of 14 rooms and five

For Rent—Sultes of 14 rooms and five baths. Rentals, \$5500 to \$12,000.
For Rent—An empty heart.
For Rent—An vacant brain.
For Rent—An idle life.
Keep your \$12,000-a-year flat. New York.
Build all of them you want. Set them up in rows along Riverside Drive as a light-hearted child sets up his blocks along the ledge of his nursery window.
Fill up your apartment houses, your \$12,000-a-year flats, with \$12,000-a-year people.

ple.
Pack 'em in, crowd 'em in, push 'em in, 59 deep if you have to, 199 deep if you must. They're nothing but coops, those big flats, anyway. Keep them in your own yard, poor, little old New York.
We don't want 'em out West, where the real people live—the real people who'd rather have a little four-room cottage with a yard and an old walnut tree at the corner of the house, and a rosy face at orner of the house, and a rosy face at window, than all the \$12,000-a-year flats in the world.

#### PROPOSE TO TAX BILLBOARDS. New York State Seeks Revenue From Profitable Property. Fourth Estate.

A measure for the assessing of bill-boards is now before the New York Legislature for consideration. The Legislature for consideration. The father of the bill is Sanford W. Ab-bey, who claims that billboards should be assessed and taxed just as any other structures of the state are taxed. The passage of the bill would mean a ma-terial increase of the assessed valua-tion of properties of state and at the same time, it is held, have a powerful effect in regulating billboards and other outdoor aivertising. The assess-ment would be upon the real property upon which the billboards stand.

The bill represents a new departure in billboard legislation. It does not alm directly at the abatement of the alleged nuisance, but is held to be a perfectly fair and sensible procedure erfectly fair and sensible procedure o class billboard structures with other uildings, and thereby make them subject to assessment and taxation. The American Civic Federation, which has been making a National campaign from its headquartors in Washington against the biliboard as a menace to civic art, health and morals, has been urging the passage of the New York State hill.
At a hearing of a delegation urging the passage of the bill, before a committee from the Assembly a few days ago, J. Horace McFarland, of Harrisourg, Pa, president of the American Civic Association, urged the passage of the measure.

The bill in substance provides that any property on which public adver-tisements are shown by billboards or otherwise shall be assessed at \$20 a square foot of billboard in cities of the first class, \$15 in cities of the sec-ond class and \$10 elsewhere, in addi-tion to the regular assessment.

### Ed Howe's Philosophy.

Atchison Glob Credit, and not women, ruins most If you are downhearted, it's your stom-They all claim it, but no man is over- day.

Some people have Spring fever all the 188 i year round. was
The trouble is a love affair cannot be 1845 settled by a primary election. It is all right to admire women, but not to the exclusion of everything else. Be frugal and thrifty, and save up your money until a good agent comes along.

A boy will get everything you promise im, and as much more as possib If you expect your friends to fight your A laundryman is no coward for run-ning away when he fades a woman's

When it doesn't rain on picnics in Kansas, times are so hard that there are no

If the Day After goes hard with you, is a pretty good hint that you shouldn't

Treat your neighbors well; they can always cause you trouble by saying you beat your wife.

A pessimist observes that an early

Origin of 'Bull Con."

"Bull con." a slang phrase which means to flatter, to praise with ulterior motives, had its origin in the West years ago. When the gold brick game was started the bunko men sprang a fine, high-sounding combination of words upon the sim-ple farmers. They called it an invest-ment in "bullion consolidated." Years after the words were cut down to "bull con," and came to mean any graft that depended upon the gift of gab.

### Life Too Short to Forget.

Atchison Globe.

There isn't anything in the theory that children will grow up to be grateful for the whippings they get; this is a fairly healthful country, but people don't live long enough for that.

New York World. For Columbia, the lion; for Yale, the buildog; for Princeton, the tiger; for Harvard—well, what's the matter with taking Roosevelt?

Flercest of Them All.

About the Worst Ever. Atlanta Journal.

President Taft thinks he has a hard job, but he ought to umpire the next world's series games.

### POLITICAL COMMENT.

Perhaps Mr. Bryan has vividly in memory eriain doings at and after the Madison quare meeting when he requests that his come-coming this time be private.—Atlanta constitution.

It is related that when Hannibal was at the gafes of Rome a farm outside the walls was sold at the usual price. The probability is that property in Milwaukee will undergo no diminution in value because of this socialist invasion—Philadelphia Record.

Some of the most prominent of Baltimore Democrats are appealing to Governor Crothers to withhold his assent from the Digges bills, which provide for the disfranchishing of negroes on a basis of open defiance of the 15th amendment. A deputation is to wait on the Governor to urgs upon him the objections to the bills.—New York Evening Post.

### RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE IS INVIOLABLE

Supreme Court of Nebraska Upholds Right of Conventions to Nominate, Indorse or Recommend Candidates, on the Ground That it is Their Constitutional Privilege—Here is a Case Directly Applicable to Oregon.

PORTLAND, April 13 .- (To the Edior.)-It has been repeatedly charged by those who are opposed to the assem-bly plan that the assembly would be illegal and in violation of the law because the law states in substance that no person shall be nominated in any other way except under the operation of the direct primary. Of course the plain answer to this is that an indorsement by an assembly is not a nomination, but only a recommendation to the voters of the particular party. reference to the legality or illegality of a law of this kind, however, the recent case of Ragan versus Junkin, in the Supreme Court of Nebraska, reported in 122 Northwestern Reporter, 473, is quite interesting and instructive. The Legislature of Nebraska passed

judicial and educational offices that they should not be "nominated, indorsed, recommended, censured, criticised or referred to in any manner by any political party or any political convention or primary or at any prinary election." In other words Legislature of Nebraska put into the act the language which the opponents of the Assembly wish to inter or construe into our direct primary law. Our law has no such language, but it is contended it should be construed substantially as if it contained similar language. After the passage of this act there was a Supreme Judge to be elected, and Ragan was recommended by an assembly or convention. The Secretary of State (Junkin) refused to place his name upon the official ballot, because it would be a violation of the primary law above referred to. The lower court held that the law was vold as being in violation of the Constitution of Nebraska, and the matter was

taken to the Supreme Court. Court, in its opinion, quotes from the onstitution of Nebraska, as follows: Every person may freely speak, write publish on all subjects, being responsible he abuse of that liberty.

This is the same in substance as Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of Oregon And again:

The right of the people peaceably to as-emble to consult for the common good and o petition the government, or any depart-nent thereof, shall never be abridged.

This is substantially the same as Section 26 of Article 1 of the Constitution of Oregon, and of the first an endment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Court then adds: The Court then adds:

The first provision quoted protects every person in his right to speak, write and publish on all subjects, and the next permits him to ancsemble with others to consult for the common good. A political meeting or convention is an "assemblage" within the meaning of the constitutional provision that the right of the people to assemble and consult for the common good shall never be abridged. The right of a citizen to speak, write and publish on all subjects does not terminate when he enters a political convenondy may jointly speak and publish the truth about candidates for office, and this right extends to aspirants for judicial and ducational offices. Delegates and nembers of political organizations not only

BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL STRENGTH. Never So Great as It Is Today; Big Advance in Foreign Investment.

Frederic Austin Ogg in Review of
Reviews.

If, however, the problems are big, the resources of brain and brawn and purse resources of brain and brawn and purse resources. The problems are big, the resources of brain and brawn and purse resources of brain and brawn and purse resources. are seemingly inexhaustible. In recent years there has been a good deal of foolish talk about the supposed decad-ence of Britain. Not a few Englishmen cording to Mulhall, it was £8,720,000,-000; today it is variously estimated a from f12,000,000,000 to f15,000,000,000 The yearly addition to this accumulated wealth in 1815 was £50,000,000 lated wealth in 1815 was £50,000,000; today it is £300,000,000, or six times as

The total foreign investment of British subjects, almost a negligible quantity a hundred years ago, is now estimated at £2,700,000,000, upon which there is an annual income of not less than f140,000,000. During the past six years the placement of British capital in foreign countries, largely suspended during the previous decade, has been resumed on a stupendous scale, greatly to the improvement and distinctly to the encouragement of public and private thrift. At least millions were invested to the improvement of foreign trade Spring also means that much longer to operate the lawn mower.

abroad in 1908, and approximately the same amount in 1909. These are merely a few of the more obvious evidences of the financial power of he nation. Of the ultimate ability of the British people to support a government twice as layish as any yet on record there can be not the remotest doubt. Assuming that the principles of reasonable conomy are to prevail, the ne tower ing question is as to how the public burden may best be adjusted so that the 15 per cent of the population which receives 50 per cent of the national income and possesses more than 90 per cent of the nation's aggregate wealth may be made to bear its just

#### German Army Strength. Century.

Germany can assemble an army of more than 1,000,000 soldiers, ready, literally speaking, to the last button, at any point along her borders, in less than a week. Not drilling, courage, patriotism, intelligence, and military spirit alone give the German army the formidable strength it possesses, but also the painstaking labor that shirks no effort, and recognizes the value of the smallest detail. And in this work the general staff, the war department, and, in fact, every officer, is engaged year after year, restlessly trying to improve what appears perfect, always on the lookout for the chance of saving half an hour of the time required for the mobilization of the army, and always following the maxim of the great Moltke: "Only by striving for the impossible may we attain the posor the impossible may we attain the pos

#### Why She Advertised. Atlanta Constitution The Belleville man who got

The Belleville man who got a wife through an advertisement and has been "against the power of the press" ever since, will be interested in this advertisement from a Missouri paper:

"Attractive woman, not a day over 30, would be pleased to correspond with eligible man. Not absolutely necessary that he should be young. Would prefer one with property, but one with a good paying position would be satisfactory. The young lady is of medium height, has brown hair and gray eyes; not fat, although most decidedly she is not akinny. Her friends say she is a fine looking

take with them into their party councils the inalienable right to speak, write and publish on all subjects, but the full benefit of this privilege can only be obtained by united action. Political parties are the great moving forces in the administration of public affairs and their influence in elections cannot be eliminated by the legislature as long as the right to assemble and speak the truth remains in the charter of our liberties. Published criticisms of candidates, officers and policies are potent factors in the struggle for civic virtue and cannot be suppressed by legislative enactment. The privilege of speaking and publishing the truth with good motives and for justification for publishing it in serted in the Bill of Rights by accident. The doctrine that the truth as to a man's conduct is no justification for publishing it in the press originated in the Star Chamber and was in high favor in that tribunal when printing became an effective means of disseminating what honest men said about the abuses of official power and the conduct and policies of public men. The hostility to such a restriction of free speech and of a free press resulted in the saloption of Section 5 of the Bill of Rights. The monpartisan judiciary are its void in se far as if declares that candidates for Judicial and educational offices shall not be mominated, induced, recommended, censured, criticised or referred to in any manner by any political party or at any primary election.

The Court goes on then to hold that this part of the act is so closely intervoven with the remainder of it that

this part of the act is so closely interwoven with the remainder of it that it cannot be separated and consequently the whole act is void.

The Supreme Court of Nebraska consists of seven judges. One of them was not present and took no part in the hearing. Four of the judges agreed to the opinion just quoted, Judge Dean dissented from the majority opinion upon the ground that the constitutional question was not discussed in the brief of the relator, and upon the further ground that a part of the act could be saved by separating the part held to be ur tional from the remainder. Judge Letton also dissented upon the latter ground, but agreed with the remainder in holding prohibition against assem-

He said: So far as the prohibition of free speech by So far as the prohibition of free speech by citizens assembled together in conventions is concerned, this provision of the act is clearly and manifestly void. Its enforcement in this respect would be an assault of the gravest and most belnous character upon the liberty of the citizen, and one that no free people would long endure. It is opposed to that spirit of liberty which is our dearest heritage, and which should be most jealously conserved and strongly defended by legislatures, courts and private citizen alike.

The Supreme Court of Nebraska is made up of judges from both political

made up of judges from both political parties, and it will be seen from the foregoing that the six judges who heard this case are practically unanimous in the opinion that any act which undertakes to prevent people from assembling together for the purpose of suggesting or recommending candidates is in violation of the constitution of the state.

The direct primary law in Oregon does not in its language undertake to prohibit such meetings, but it is argued by the opponents of the Assembly that it intended to do so. But whether it did or did not, upon the authority of the Supreme Court of Nebraska, would make no difference, and the reasoning of the Court seems to be unanswer-

woman. Object matrimony. Reason for this advertisement, the young woman lives in a little dinky town, where the best catches are the boys behind the counters in the dry goods and clothing stores, and everyone of them is spoken

foolish talk about the supposed decadence of Britain. Not a few Englishmen have themselves fallen into grave doubts on the subject. As a matter of fact, the nation never possessed elements of strength equal to those of today. A population of 20,000,000 in 1815 has increased to one of 44,000,000. In 1815 the nation's accumulated wealth was under f3,000,000,000; as late as 1845 it was only 14,000,000,000; in 1882, 1845 it was only 14,000,000,000; in 1882. Punc fitting.

### His Ultimatum.

Detroit Free Press.
"If you want to move, all right. But there's one thing I want understood right now.

"What's that?" 'That if we do move, I'm not going to ride through the streets of this town on the moving van juggling an onyx clock and a bird cage."

> In the Magazine Section of the

## Sunday Oregonian

STIRRING DAYS WITH OLD CHIEF JOSEPH

Early settlement of Wallowa Valley, when the Indians, under able leadership, fought the whites for possession, as told by a pioneer participant.

### LAYING THE RAILS

UP DESCHUTES CANYON One road will soon operate trains for 32 miles, and the other only a short distance in the rear.

### MEN WHO CONTROL

THE NATION'S MONEY Leaders behind the 11,000 allied American banks, with stupendous assets of \$14,000,000,000.

#### WHEN JEFFRIES RESOLVED TO BE WORLD'S CHAMPION

The undefeated heavyweight tells how he made up his mind to whip Fitzsimmons and Corbett after their fight.

### OBADIAH OLDWAY AT THE

SALEM HORSE SHOW With varied comment by the Hoaxville philosopher on its social, gustatorial and religious

ORDER EARLY FROM YOUR NEWSDEALER