The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOV. 21, 1910.

INTRODUCING THE SINGLE TAX.

The people of Oregon at the recent election adopted through the initiative, by a narrow plurality, the following constitutional amendment:

No poll or head tax shall be levied or collected in Oregon; no bill regulating taxation or exemption throughout the state shall become a law until approved by the people of the state at a general election; none of the restrictions of the constitution shall apply to measures approved by the people declaring what shall be subject to taxation or exemption and how it shall be taxed or exempted, whether proposed by the Legislative Assembly or by initiative petition; but the people of the several counties are hereby empowered and authorized to regulate taxation and exemptions within the several counties, subject to any general law which may be hereafter enacted.

Thus we may have the single tax in Oregon under an ingenious system of home rule by counties in the important function of taxation. The single tax as a state-wide policy was rejected two years ago by an emphatic vote, but its persistent and adroit propagandists devised this deft and plausible scheme by which the single tax might be introduced, either for purposes of experimentation or as a permanent system, in the various counties. The hands of the Legislature are tied so that there may be no interference from Salem. The historic requirement of the constitution—of all constitutions—that taxation shall be equal and uniform is boldly wiped out, along with every other constitutional limitation that might have been invoked to defeat so novel and revolutionary an innovation. No measure in future concerning taxation may be enacted except on the express approval of the people. The plans of the single-taxers were well-laid and completely realized, for they have been crowned with a remarkable success.

It is not possible, of course, that the people of Oregon intended to reverse their verdict of 1908 as to the single tax. They are not for the single tax, and the single-taxers know it. No measure definitely and clearly proposing single tax would or could have the slightest chance of enactment.

How, then, could this extraordinary measure be so framed as to find favor with the electorate? By the easy and simple device of adding a catch line abolishing the poll tax. The Oregonian does not hesitate to declare that the majority of the voters of Oregon who permitted themselves to be trapped into approval of this amendment were influenced chiefly by a purpose to do away with the odious head tax. It made no difference that there is no poll tax in Oregon, and has not been since 1907, when it was abolished by statute. There it was on the ballot, and the voter struck at it. He killed forever, as he thought, the unpopular head tax and by the same stroke of the pen inadvertently opened the gates to the triumphant invasion of Oregon by the single taxers.

Yet The Oregonian would not have it appear that single tax as an institution is imminent throughout Oregon. This measure, so far as that abominable device is concerned, is only the initial step, though so far as it removes all legislative checks on constitutional restraints, it is complete enough. What county is now to be selected for exploitation and experimentation by the single taxers? Multnomah? It is incredible, for the overpowering sentiment of the community will be found to be against it, though the vote here two years ago against the single tax was far less overwhelming than might have been supposed. The majority against the measure was indeed small. It carried in only a single county (Coos). Yet it is not to be assumed that Coos County will offer a more attractive field for innovators and experimenters than any other. Here we have the constitution fixed, nevertheless, so that any county may impose all its taxes on real estate if it desires, or on any other class of property. The next move undoubtedly will be to select some community, or group of communities, for the perfect crystallization of the single tax idea into a tangible and productive reality.

But there is a way to escape, and one way only. It is through the initiative. That the people of Oregon will take the back track through that avenue to safe and reliable ground The Oregonian has no doubt whatever if the issue shall be presented to them fully and fairly and not complicated by other questions. Another constitutional amendment will do the work. If the measure for the repeal of the present amendment (except as to the poll tax) shall be submitted by the Legislature or through the initiative it will doubtless be carried by a large vote. The abolition of the head tax should stand; but the single tax must go.

DISCIPLINING THE BLIND PIGS.

Klamath County is now wet. It was dry. Being wet the City Council of Klamath Falls has set about to grant saloon licenses. It is said to have refused to issue licenses to several applicants who have been owners of "blind pigs." Several former saloonkeepers who obeyed the prohibition law and remained dry were granted licenses at once.

The Klamath Falls Council proceeded on the theory that the dive-keeper who broke the prohibition law would also on any provocation violate the license law. He would bring the attempt to regulate saloons into contempt as he brought disrepute on the prohibition law.

Yet blind pigs and kitchen saloons and bootlegging are not necessarily exclusive phenomena of the dry town. The dive may thrive under license, too, if the police authorities wink at the law. Are the same officers who failed to enforce the prohibition law at Klamath Falls, and shut their eyes to the blind pigs, now going to enforce the license law and open their eyes to the blind pigs?

CAN ROOSEVELT COME BACK?

The only contribution of Theodore Roosevelt to the flood of campaign comment following the elections is the gay apothegm that "Every dog has his day, but the nights belong to the cats." The exact bearing of this 'ere remark, as the famous Bunsby would have said, lies in the application of it. You can make your own application.

Yet for a statesman who is supposed to be dead the Colonel is strangely lively. True, he has had very little to say, and that little has been altogether delphic; but he has moved around at his usual lively gait, and has indicated that there are a million or more things he might say, if he would; but he will not. This unprecedented silence, instead of confirming the hopeful opinion of his enemies that he must be dead, appears on the contrary to inspire them with an uneasy dread that he is still alive and that it will not be long before he will be kicking, as usual.

Undoubtedly Roosevelt is not a "dead one." Slightly disfigured and temporarily out of the ring he may be, indeed; but that he will "come back" or try to "come back," there is no doubt. It may well be questioned if a majority of those Republicans who voted against Stimson because they felt that it was a vote against Roosevelt desired thus to dispose of Roosevelt finally. They only wanted to "trim" him. But the Republicans will doubtless need him in 1912 to help out. Then, there will be a loud and anxious call for Roosevelt to "come back."

THIS THRIVING WEST.

This Pacific Northwest can beat the East and the Middle West in many things: climate, soil fertility, scenery, rapid progress and energy of its citizens—some of them. But it cannot beat the East and the Middle West in production of eggs, butter, pork, poultry and such like. Every opportunity is here to give this part of the country superiority in these respects, but the people are too busy "building up the country."

Such is really the reason for shortage of food production in this country. Population is increasing faster than any other part of the United States. Later the equilibrium will be restored, so that the disparity between consumers and producers of food will not be so great. Also, the hard lessons of politics may reduce the number of statesmen and patriots, who are trying to make a living off taxpayers, instead of plying productive vocations.

This Pacific Northwest is truly a big country. It grows and thrives and waxes great. It imports prodigious food supply and sends away enormous treasure therefor. Too many of its citizens are trying to get rich out of real estate. Too few are endeavoring to increase the number of blades of grass where the proverbial one blade now grows. But many others are turning their hand to this duty; also to the business of the laying hen. The readjustment will come after a while. And the readjustment will bring more hay, more garden produce, more pork, more cabbages and lower cost of living.

THE RAPID PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM.

Socialistic agitators show themselves very impatient with what they consider the slow progress of their propaganda. But in truth, their schemes are making tremendous headway in this country and throughout the world. Many citizens who oppose governmental ownership of the means of production and distribution and the collective ownership of property yet are unconsciously joining forces with the movement that is subordinating the individual, eliminating personal responsibility and adding burdens to the state.

This is particularly obvious in affairs pertaining to public schools and colleges. Children, as hostages to fortune, are regarded as entitled to the best there is. Unless the children are educated and properly reared and rightly fed and clothed; unless they are kept in proper health, their defects of vision corrected, their teeth saved from decay, and their hands trained to industrial crafts, as well as their minds to lessons of arithmetic and grammar, unless they are cared for in these respects, they are likely to grow up undesirable citizens and to be burdens upon society. On this argument, enlarging and widening functions are added continually to the public educational system. These services are "free"; that is, they are paid for by taxpayers, while parents are spared the expense of these several cares for their offspring.

School children of Portland are found to have defective teeth to an alarming degree. The School Board has appropriated $1000 to equip a room in the city hall for free "clinics." More than 100 dentists of the city are said to have promised to lend their time "free" to the clinic business. It is believed that this care will protect children from many diseases.

It will be a short step to demand that the whole community shall undertake this work, instead of the hundred odd dentists. This demand will be in keeping with the whole scheme of public education. It will relieve parents from the duty of caring for the teeth of their children and will add to the tax burdens of other parents who would look after their own children.

This is one example of the tremendous movement of socialism. The movement is going forward stronger than most persons know. It is taking from citizens and parents responsibilities that always heretofore have been theirs. It is making officials, instead of fathers and mothers, responsible for the health, the education, the moral welfare and the upkeep of their children. It is teaching an increasing quota of citizens that property owners and taxpayers owe increasing favors to the unemployed, the poor and the sick.

This is a big subject that will not be summed up in written articles nor in volumes. It is the greatest question of politics today. Nearly every subject of government involves this question one way or another. The man and the woman who by frugality or self-denial acquire property for themselves and their children, find other men and women, not possessed of the virtue of saving and economy, taking from their collected store through the vote power of taxation.

It is a situation against which protest avails little. The people are said to need the things which they are obtaining at public expense and through multiplication of officials. The people are adding to their equipment of public utilities. In Portland they have just voted for public docks and for water mains paid for by consumers. Next election a plan will be presented for free water. And these are but incidents and small details in the general movement.

Certainly a big transformation is in progress. No person can see the end and but few realize the trend.

"ARE WE CONSERVATION MAD"?

This question is the title of an article in a recent number of Leslie's Weekly. "Nearly 300,000,000 acres are now out of settlers' reach," says the author, "and the end does not seem near."

If this article indicates a reaction from the craze of so-called conservation, it is a welcome sign. The pent-up acres exceed the combined areas of Germany and France; or Spain, Italy and Great Britain. They are more than double the area of France or Germany and nearly four times the area of Great Britain.

"The growth of population in the several Western States (where the 300,000,000 acres are reserved) is dangerously retarded," says the writer.

"There is the prospect of more coal in many of these Western states than even Pennsylvania has yielded. The withdrawal of these coal lands stops the development of any mines upon them. So it is with the other natural resources—minerals, water power and reservoir sites, timber lands, etc."

All which is true, unfortunately true. Yet Eastern voters and politicians have known little about it, and cared less. The reaction from "land grabbing" has created this craze. Eastern folk have acquired the extreme idea that it is necessary to "withdraw" everything in order to keep it from being "grabbed."

Reason and common sense will correct the excess of conservation. But meanwhile the progress of the West, the settlement of lands and the development of mines and water powers are arrested.

THEN DEMOCRATS WILL RULE.

Democrats of Oregon are preparing to doff the garb of non-partisanship. Two years hence they expect to win the Senate of the United States and the Presidency, as they have just won the House of Representatives and the Governorships and the Legislatures of numerous states hitherto Republican. After that non-partisanship will be out of vogue in the Democratic party, because the faithful will insist on filling the offices of United States Marshal and Attorney, of Collector of Customs and Internal Revenue, and other choice places in this state, with Democrats.

That will be the time for Republicans who have been parading with George Chamberlain, Oswald West, John Manning, Harry Lane and others, as non-partisans, to taste the gall and wormwood of the business. That is the time they will find George and Oswald and John and Harry gazing at them with the glassy eye. These Democratic chiefs are Democrats bred in the bone. They have used non-partyism as a method of temporary success, until the time should come when the strength of their party would make it possible for them to change back the method to the "real thing."

How will it look for Alex Sweek to be United States Attorney? And John Ryan United States Marshal? And George H. Thomas Collector of Customs? This or something similar will be the outcome, should Democrats win the Presidency and the Senate two years hence. It will be natural and proper for them to have the high offices when the party gains ascendancy. Non-partisanship will be then as a worn-out garment.

REFORMING OREGON COURTS.

The Oregon Legislature, at its next session, may, if it sees fit, abolish the offices of County Clerk, County Judge, Sheriff and District Attorney.

The removal of the restriction in the constitution on the power of the people or the Legislative Assembly to provide some other form of county government or to transfer probate procedure and other matters now under the jurisdiction of the County Judge direct to the Circuit Court is but one of numerous important features of the constitutional amendment commonly termed the "three-fourths jury amendment," adopted in the recent election.

It is not even required by the new Article VII of the constitution that there be a Circuit Court. The new article simply vests the judicial power of the state in "one Supreme Court and in such other courts as may from time to time be created by law." The way will be open, after the amendment has been proclaimed by the Governor, for an entire re-establishment of the judicial system of Oregon outside of the Supreme Court. The Legislature may, if it shall seem wise, create superior courts, such as now exist in the other Pacific Coast States of Washington and California, and it may create an appellate court, having final appellate jurisdiction in certain cases. Washington has no intermediary appellate court, but its supreme court is composed of nine members, while five constitute the Oregon Supreme bench. Appellate courts are usually created to relieve the stress of work on the supreme court.

As the new amendment is written, it seems more important that some action should be taken by the Legislature to relieve a threatened overburdening of the Supreme Court than that there should be an experimenting with new county government plans. Under section 3 of the new measure the whole testimony in cases appealed to the Supreme Court, together with the instructions of the court and any other matter material to the decision of the appeal, may be attached to the bill of exceptions. Under the present law only so much of the record as shall suffice to show the Supreme Court the question involved may be taken up. The method of formulating bills of exceptions as contemplated by the new amendment may be changed by law, but until it is changed the records in appealed cases are likely to be made extremely voluminous, imposing thereby much more work than now devolves on the Supreme Court in determining what questions are involved in the appeal.

Numerous alternative means of overcoming this difficulty are permitted. As herein indicated, an appellate court may be created which would take part of the burden from the Supreme Court. The amendment also removes all restriction on the number of members of the Supreme Court, and other justices may therefore be added to the bench. The Legislature may also limit the matters that may be contained in the record of each case appealed.

The chief difficulty likely to be encountered is the adoption of a reform of the judicial system that will receive the approval of the majority of the people. The way has been left broadly open for a revolutionizing of the judicial system at every session of the Legislature and it is obvious that the change must be so soundly for the general welfare that it will be a permanent one.

Projects for new river bridges at Oregon and Broadway streets are going forward and all attempts to stop them have failed. It is just and proper that people of this city should have all the river spans that they wish and are willing to pay for. Clearly their interests are rightly superior to those of wharf owners or steamboat men or land speculators. More than half a century ago the principle was enunciated by Lincoln that it is just as proper for people to cross a river on a bridge as to sail up and down in a boat. There were obstructionists in his day, also. That was at the outset of railroad development, which ever since has been spanning rivers. In the case of Portland, the persons who need river bridges so largely exceed those who oppose them that the right course is obvious and clear. The bridges at Oregon and Broadway streets are bound to be built. After them, in due time, others will be built. In no case, now or in future, will the opposition of disgruntled factions avail to keep from citizens of Portland the bridges that they wish to place across the river.

In his annual report, Secretary Ballinger will recommend that Congress should transfer the Cunningham coal land cases to the United States Court of Claims. That he will favor this course indicates that the law officers of the Interior Department have concluded that the Cunningham claimants, under the law, are entitled to the lands. Concerning this recommendation, the Springfield Republican says: "Such a decision by the Interior Department, however, would cause a great outcry and corruption would undoubtedly be charged. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the Interior Department officials should prefer to unload the cases upon the United States Court of Claims for final decision." So vicious and unreasoning have been the attacks by certain widely circulated newspapers upon Secretary Ballinger in connection with these lands that a decision in favor of the Cunningham claims by the court would call down upon the court's head much of the mordant criticism and like bitter assaults that have made Ballinger's life a burden.

Cotton exports last month exceeded in value those for any previous October. They exceeded $92,500,000, against an October average for ten years of $60,000,000. In point of quantity, however, the outgoing movement has been exceeded several times. Prices are not quite so high as they were at this time a year ago, but with that exception our friends across the Atlantic are paying us more for the staple than any time since shortly after the Civil War. Incidentally it may be remarked that the price for home consumption is not less.

Perhaps the pointed hints from Washington that the official figures on Portland's population will be about 209,000 may be accepted as fact. What then? Ten years ago we numbered 90,000; increase about 119,000, or more than 130 per cent. While certain enthusiasts may have a feeling of disappointment, it should be remembered that not to exceed four or five cities in the United States have exceeded this percentage.

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, showed neither wisdom nor common sense when he predicted a return of hard times under Democratic control of Congress. Legislation adverse to the interests of the Nation is not to be thought of; it is practically impossible. A more sane view is that the country is likely to have two years of rest—the very best thing for all concerned.

If when Director Durand announces the populations, Seattle shall appear larger than Portland, let no one feel sick over it. Since 1900 Seattle annexed suburbs whose combined population is 33,400. Portland's suburbs are still suburbs, though really a part of the metropolitan district and reached by the streetcars for a 5-cent fare.

Effort now put forth to organize the 800,000 working girls of New York City into a trade union league forcibly illustrates the tendency of the times. If it succeeds, we may look for similar organizations in every large city in the United States.

Secretary Wilson is right about more irrigation and more intensive farming being necessary to the salvation of the country, but his pessimistic prophecy is better referred to the corner orator for elucidation.

Pity the poor mariner, who is a great deal safer and much more comfortable in these sixty-mile gales than his brother ashore, who has to "slosh around" in muddy discomfort, with topsy-turvy umbrellas.

The Elgin people who won first prize on apples grown "without irrigation" know how to grow fruit, if they—or some of them—cannot spell.

Modern sanitary methods get credit for reduction of the Philippine death rate, when everybody was ready to believe it was less use of the 30-30.

Business in that line is so good this Fall that a third municipal rockpile is necessary.

Not a sound from Oyster Bay. The deeps are dumb or the dumps are deep.

Dr. Crippen knows how the turkey feels about it these days.

IS ROOSEVELT A DEAD ONE?

Just a Little Premature Now to Bury Him.

Boston Globe.

It would be well not to step up and view the political remains of Theodore Roosevelt until sufficient time has elapsed for the complete demonstration of his political demise. He would not like anything better than to create an unseemly scene at the burial which his foes are confidently preparing for him. Like Judge Hoar on the day of Wendell Phillips' funeral, there are not a few who are ready to approve of his funeral. But they must not reckon without their corpse.

Go behind the first superficial view of the returns and where do you find any other Republican leader who fared better than Roosevelt in the landslide of Tuesday? You find La Follette, of Wisconsin, and a few others who saved themselves only by outdoing Roosevelt in insurgency. And how large would have been the New York majority against a Sherman-Barnes-Woodruff standpat ticket?

Mr. Dix' majority is not very large by the New York standard of measurement, for Cleveland had nearly 200,000 on a former Democratic tidal wave and Levi P. Morton received more than 150,000 on the Republican tidal wave of 1894. Considering the great size of the electorate, Roosevelt lost the state by much less than the Republicans lost Massachusetts, New Jersey and Mr. Taft's state of Ohio.

The New York Times recalls that it was unbelievable in the Autumn that the Republicans of New York could be rallied and it ascribes to the ex-President the energy and vitality that were put into the campaign. The tide of popular discontent ran swift and strong and no defender of the Republican party could stop it. The patent inability of the ex-President to sway the people away from their just chastisement of recreant Republican legislators in Washington and at Albany is a tribute to our institutions and to the people who uphold them.

Yet even his admirers must admit that as a campaigner he did not in his method of attack imitate his great predecessor, Abraham Lincoln, whom he so often invoked as the guiding genius of the new Nationalism.

BOUGHT WITH AMERICAN GOLD?

Irish-American Humorist on Phases of British Politics.

PORTLAND, Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I see by the papers that the dollars of the American millionaires are being sent "over acrost" to destroy the British constitution. Why can't these big plutocrats attend to their own tattered, physical, Constitution? If I was one of the shadows in that hereditary bunch, I'd boycott their blooming daughters. Too long have the noble ones, so generously and gallantly pawned their certificates of gentility to ennoble American womanhood, and so considerately remembered a grateful posterity by failing to reproduce a burnt-out species.

First, it was the servant girls; but now it is the millionaires who are bombarding with American dollars the livery of their titled misnomers and vulgarizing the garters of their knighthood—the bulwarks of their constitution.

Aw, well, pon my soul, look at them, the American millionaires of Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Winnepeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria and the 27,000 American dollars recently subscribed to destroy the British constitution; the hundreds of thousands of dollars subscribed in the past 25 years from Australia and New Zealand and from the democracy of England itself for the same purpose, with the aid and comfort of the tintinnabulary aristocracy of wealth hereabouts—His Serene Russian Highness Larryovitsky Shanahan, His Gracious Mynheership Dr. Antroo Schmidt, Signor O'Shea, Senoreas O'Neill, Brady and O'Connell, their Cockade Worships Steve Collins and Jack Kennedy and His Lordships Dinny Lane and Mealy Murther?

So the British House of Lords is wobbling? "Mike," yelled his bunky during a severe storm at sea, "Mike, the ship is going down." "What the divil do you care? It doesn't belong to us," said Mike. J. H. MURPHY.

Obey the Command—And Begin Now.

New York Evening Mail.

The Republican party has until March 4 next to respond to the demand upon it made by the people Tuesday. It must not stand hesitatingly in the middle of the road during these few remaining months of its undivided control of legislation. It must make the most of its brief power to adjust its policies to the evident determination of the country. That determination includes, first of all, a change in such tariff schedules as cotton, wool and rubber.

Stay-at-Home Voters.

New York Tribune

The stay-at-home voters were the extraordinary feature of the state election. Dix received 75,000 fewer votes than Chanler received in 1908, yet the majority for Dix is almost as big as was the majority against Chanler. The stay-at-home element was more than twice as numerous up the state as it was in this city. That tells the story of what became of the old-fashioned Republican majorities above the Bronx.

Which?

Chicago Tribune.

Yesterday's result in New York makes or unmakes Theodore Roosevelt. Which? The West, not the East, will answer this question, and no one knows the answer today.

One Serene Republican.

Brooklyn Eagle.

And serene above the stress of parties and the strifes of partisans, gowned and grand and unperturbed, sits Charles E. Hughes.

Nothing for Bryan.

Chicago Tribune.

Viewing the result in general and in particular, we entreat Mr. Bryan to be calm. There is nothing in it for him.

At the Bridge Whist Club.

Judge.

I played on the bridge at midnight,
Though my bank account ran low,
And a warning voice within me
Said I'd better quit and go.

A moment's calm reflection
Might have saved me from such fate,
But the lust of bridge had gripped me,
And, alas, it was too late.

And ever the cards before me
Seemed luring me on to play,
And the currency, gleaming and going,
Seemed to lift and bear me away.

And I bid when I should have bridged it,
And bridged when I might have bid,
And only the god of the foolish
Knows the mad, sad things I did.

And ever the play went wilder,
And the cards still wilder went,
And I the wildest of any—
For I risked my last red cent.

How often, oh, how often,
In the good old days long past,
I had played on at bridge at midnight,
And raked in the pile at last.

How often, oh, how often,
I prayed in a tense aside,
I might bear away in my pocket
That pile so deep and wide.

But the game was dead against me;
I'd lost my luck at the play,
And the debts there laid upon me
Seemed greater than I could pay.

With my coin all fallen from me,
I left in the cold gray dawn,
Deep cursing the bridge at midnight,
And wondering what I could pawn.

BAD COLLEGE SOCIAL DISSIPATION

Protest Against Elevation of Physical Over Intellectual Effort.

PORTLAND, Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I noticed in The Oregonian of last Thursday the statement that 83 "flunks" were recorded at the state university in Seattle. The article stated that among these were students prominent in social life and many "frat" members.

We, who are taxpayers in Washington, have the right to enquire into the mess, and ask that the allurements fostered and bred at the institution referred to be removed. The question in my mind is: What is a university? We know what it should be, and as taxpayers ought to demand that if attractions exist in its everyday affairs that tend to draw the minds of our boys from their studies, either the institution should be made to suffer or their hobbies, of vain character, kicked out.

It seems to me that attending the "varsity" is becoming today a fad among the "young bloods." It also appears that the standard of the "varsity" is measured to a great extent by the variety of attractions, vain in nature, that exist there and hailed throughout the state as "the only school."

I have often noticed in the newspapers praise most high heaped upon some heavy "pug" for excellence done along athletic lines, excellence which requires merely brute strength. If that same energy were applied in the harvest field or blacksmith shop the real quiet contest of life, the shouts that send Sally, the sorority queen, home with a bad cold a "week before exams"—the mad, frenzied riot that cracks Jack's head would not occur. It seems that this heroic stunt of animal strength is not lasting, yet its devotees are made the idols of their school for it.

How about the boy who uses his intellectual strength and contests with his classmates each day in oratory, debate, mathematics, and is each victory, each goal met with the same tumult as that which characterizes the "fatty" on the 10-yard gain? If praise should tell upon members of such an institution, let it be cast upon the ones most deserving. As the university stands for intellectual attainments, let praise be directed upon those who have attained such, and not diverted into paths which lead away into the animal world. L. R. W.

KISSES FOR EUGENE'S "RAH" BOYS

Old Maids' Club, of Sandy, Sends Its Sarcastic Sympathy.

SANDY, Or., Nov. 19.—(To the Editor.)—At our last meeting of the Old Maids' Club I was reading The Oregonian to the sisters, when I ran across that horrid account of how the rough farmers at Corvallis hurt those sweet rah-rah boys from Eugene, after the football game.

We sisters of the Old Maids' Club want to extend our sympathies to the "deah" boys of Eugene, excepting the football team who have "red blood" in their veins and can take care of themselves. We are mamby-pamby old maids just like those Eugene boys, and we want them to know that there are some people in the state who sympathize with them.

We know they did nothing and said nothing to provoke those farmers and that the latter just pitched on them and "hurted" their frail little bodies and aristocratic dignity, and possibly stole their powder puffs and rouge and chrysanthemums. Possibly, those farmers also stole a few corsets from the little dears, and we old maids just want to squeal, through the columns of The Oregonian, along with them.

We hope The Oregonian will print this, so that the poor dear innocents will know they have the sympathy of their fellow men.

GUNHILDA SKINBONES.

SUCCESS DUE TO SPECIALIZING

It Isn't What Your Work Is, but How You Do It, That Counts.

Washington Times.

E. H. Harriman won fame and fortune because he specialized on railroads. Great surgeons are those who specialized upon one given branch of surgery. Great physicians specialize upon certain diseases, and the world, recognizing their superiority, accepts their words as final and absolute.

So if women want to succeed, in business or the arts, they must first learn to specialize.

Most women, however, who are clever, flit from one "fad" to another, and while they may gather a lot of heterogeneous matter, success and fame pass them by and go to the girl who has put heart and soul into one thing, which she does better than any other.

It isn't what your work is, you know, but how you do it that counts. It's better to be a good cook or an excellent housekeeper than a poor artist or writer, and it's a lot finer and a lot harder to be a good wife than to be a good stenographer. But, however, your talents run, in whatever path of life your feet are set, specialize. Do a few things well and let the others go.

No Back Step in Real Reform.

New York Journal of Commerce.

It was a necessary part of a process of transition and possible regeneration. The day of Aldrich and Hale, of Cannon and his obsequious adherents, is past; but La Follette and Bristow, even Cummins and Beveridge, are hardly the men to take direction of an organized progressive movement. They are too much of the radical type, leaders of insurrection and fighters for a change, rather than wise guides. Doliver was a sad loss, but there are others of like temperament and many of a new generation ready for the advance on lines of safety. There is nothing in the exhibition of political sentiment, resulting in a decisive party overturn, that denotes a backward step in real reform.

Motor Car Maxims.

December Smart Set.

A chauffeur at the wheel is worth two under the machine.

It's a rough lane that has no scorching.

Be sure there's no policeman in sight, then go ahead.

By their "toots" ye shall know them.

A fool and his machine are soon started.

The slowest way round is the cheapest way home.

An ounce of gasoline is worth a pound of push.

Resourceful Community.

Washington Star.

"We didn't know what to do about Piute Pete," said the Crimson Gulch citizen. "He was a real good feller, but he would be careless about shootin' up the populace."

"Did you straighten out the matter?"

"To some extent. We elected him Sheriff, thereby makin' it look a little more legal."

Hancock President?

BIGGS, Or., Nov. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Was General Hancock ever President of the United States? If so in what year was he elected? SUBSCRIBER.

Wouldn't this make you wish for a larger waste basket? General Hancock was a candidate for President in 1880, and defeated by Garfield.

See What the Democrats Do.

Wall Street Journal.

A yield of 3,121,000,000 bushels of corn means cheaper hops; cheaper hogs means a reduction in the price of pork and bacon. See what a Democratic Congress does to the cost of living before it meets.

Life's Sunny Side

When charged with being drunk and disorderly and asked what he had to say for himself the prisoner gazed pensively at the magistrate, smoothed down a remnant of gray hair and said:

"Your honor, man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn. I'm not as debased as Swift, as profligate as Byron, as dissipated as Poe, as debauched a—"

"That will do!" thundered the magistrate. "Ten days! And, officer, take a list of those names and run 'em in. They're as bad a lot as he is!"—London Mail.

* * *

A traveler going through Breathitt County, Kentucky, in 1896, found a man sitting on the side of the road with a gun across his knees.

"Belong here?" he asked the man with the gun.

"Yes."

"How's politics?"

"Tol'able."

"Who you going to vote for?"

"Well, stranger," said the man with the gun, peering down the road, "if I see Bill Smith before he sees me I'm goin' to vote for McKinley."—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

* * *

Professor Hugh W. Ransom, of Harvard, was describing, at a dinner in Cambridge, his experience as a subway workman—experience undergone in the cause of science.

"One thing that impressed me," he said, "was the happy home life of these hard-working men. It is a far happier home life than that of the idle rich. And yet, the way people talk, you'd think it was a wretched and squalid home life.

"The way people talk, you'd think Jim Jackson's was a typical poor man's home.

"Jim, very pale and shaky, stopped at the butcher's one morning and said:

"'Give me a piece of raw beef for a black eye, please.'

"'Who's got a black eye, Jim?' asked the butcher, curiously.

"'Nobody ain't yet,' Jim answered. 'But I've been on a bust for the last three days, and now I'm on my way home to the old woman.'"—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

* * *

At the entertainment on Monday night Miss Bessie Browning recited that soft-talk poem: "I Will Choose a Sweetheart From the Crowd Tonight," with such earnestness and emotion that all the young men made their getaway before the show was half over. Bessie has never won a medal for looks, but she can recite to beat the band. . . . Mamie Snitz is cutting quite a swath on Arapahoe street because she won the prize at the elocution contest on Tuesday night. She stuttered so painfully that everybody wondered what she was saying her piece twice for. Her father was the judge of the contest.—Big Bend News Notes, in Riverton, Wyo., News.

GOETHE AND FRAU VON STEIN.

Another Idol Shattered as the Outcome of Modern Research.

November Current Literature.

And now, latest of all the iconoclasts, a German writer comes to undo the fair name and character of a woman who has commanded admiration almost unchallenged for nearly a century and a half—Charlotte von Stein, commonly known as Frau von Stein, the object of enduring of the many fervent loves of Goethe, the heroine of a romance that ranks among the classic love stories in history. In a certain respect it is the most remarkable love story of all, for though the love between Goethe and Charlotte occurred in that notorious age of loose morality, the Eighteenth Century, the rococo period, and though their love was of that wild and passionate nature which, as a rule, brooks no restraint, it remained a pure love. Of this there is no doubt even to this day. But a woman may be outwardly virtuous and inwardly full of sin. She may be loved by a genius and yet be unworthy the love of a valet. This is one of the things that Eduard Engel tries to prove in his new work on Goethe.

It is true that Frau von Stein has had earlier detractors. One of Goethe's first and best biographers, George Henry Lewes, called her a coquette. But none of the important biographers before Engel ever doubted that she was a woman of high mental attainments and a fit intellectual companion for Goethe. Eduard Engel strongly not doubts but denies this. Both mentally and morally, he asserts, she was not what she is commonly considered to be. He bases his opinion upon a mass of damaging evidence, such as has not been similarly collected and co-ordinated.

Pointed Paragraphs.

The Chicago News.

The echo of a kind word goes on forever.

Some women are too slow to keep up with the neighborhood gossip.

Which bores you more—listening to people's troubles or their jokes?

If a man is troubled with pipe dreams he should consult a plumber.

Marriage is a lottery—and the prize is often drawn in a perambulator.

What passes for sympathy is often like women's hair; a lot of it is false.

If a woman isn't ashamed to wear her old clothes it's a sign that she is rich.

A man who speaks from experience defines matrimony as the first step to alimony.

The top notch of politeness has been attained when a man asks a bill collector to call again.

It's the easiest thing in the world for a man to convince a woman that he is in the wrong.

Not Democratic—Discontented.

New York Evening Mail.

The country is not Democratic—it is discontented. It has entered a protest against things as they are, but the protest embodies so many and such widely differing views that, emphatic as it is, it gives neither direction to new policies nor inspiration to any forward movement in government. It is as chaotic, and, to our mind unjustified, as the equally erratic and overwhelming victory of the Democrats in 1892.

Sitting-Down Aid for the Colonel.

Harper's Weekly.

Credit our neighbor, Life, with the best definition of the Colonel's limitations. "Enormous," says Life, "as are his powers of locomotion and exhortation, he cannot sit down without assistance." And Life has reluctantly come to the conclusion that his fellow contrymen ought to supply the assistance.

One Relief, Anyway.

New York Sun.

The Shade stood before Peter.

"Does it cost anything to get in?" he asked.

"Not a cent," was the reply.

"Thank goodness!" commented the Shade, "I'm at last free from the pay-as-you-enter nuisance."

Self-Sacrifice.

Washington Star.

"You manage to keep your husband home at nights," said one woman.

"Yes," replied the other: "I am the only person of his acquaintance who will listen patiently and respectfully while he tells exactly how the election happened."

Ouch.

Washington Star.

"Is this a real ostrich feather?" asked one shopper.

"No," replied the other; "ostrich is merely its nom de plume."