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PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEB. 13, 1911.

IS OREGON A $6,000,000 STATE?

The Oregon Legislature shows no purpose to hold its appropriations down to reasonable limits. In 1909 the record aggregate of $4,000,000 for the biennial period staggered the burdened taxpayer; but now we hear that the $4,000,000 maximum is to be so far exceeded that the total for 1911-12 will reach $6,000,000.

Is Oregon a $6,000,000 state? Are its productive resources so varied and so readily available that so vast a sum can be turned into the state treasury without sacrifice or in some cases actual bankruptcy? How can the Legislature possibly justify itself for piling so great a load on the shoulders of the poor taxpayer, already perplexed and embarrassed by the insistent demands for taxes from county, city, school district and the like? How much of this great sum is being wrung from the taxpayer's pockets to meet the genuine needs of the state, and how much to support ornamental boards and commissions, pay for useless public printing, extend an already heavily padded payroll, provide for "higher education" free for people well able to pay, and furnish the luxurious establishments of state functionaries with automobiles, Wilton carpets, mahogany sideboards and cut glass wine sets? How much goes into the daily fare of the unhappy inmates of the state institutions at Salem, and how much into the living of a long list of superfluous public employes? What percentage of this vast expenditure of $6,000,000 will represent to the state value received and how much sheer waste and wicked extravagance?

The Oregonian is the last to protest against the investment by the state of moneys into necessary public institutions, such as the insane asylum, the home for the feeble-minded, the reform schools and the orphans' schools, all of which represent the generous spirit of an enlightened humanity; or such as the penitentiary, which society must maintain for its own protection. Nor would it deny to superintendents and officers of these institutions the means of comfortable living. But it is profoundly concerned in the wise and judicious expenditure of the state's funds in channels not absolutely necessary to a reasonable development of the state's interests and not strictly a part of the public activities. It would remind the Legislature that the State of Oregon has only 700,000 people, and that it is folly for us to endeavor to compete in public expenditures with the State of Washington, with 1,200,000, or the State of California, with 2,[illegible]00,000.

[illegible] with some reluctance, and at the risk of being misunderstood that The Oregonian mentions the appropriation for the State University, which exceeds $500,000—this to be added to the $250,000 biennial sum heretofore voted by the Legislature and approved through the referendum by the taxpayers. The university is a growing and beneficent institution, and if it is to be maintained it must have adequate funds. But we submit that $800,000 for a single biennium is more than the state should be called on to provide, and we suggest to the active promoters of this great appropriation that they are taking serious chances of another referendum, with less prospect of enthusiastic support by many who have heretofore insisted that the university should have sufficient funds for maintenance, equipment and buildings. There is too much of the old flavor of the reprehensible logroll about this appropriation, and Representative Thompson was correct when, in the House last Saturday, he insisted that the items ought to be separated and consideration of the whole appropriation proceed on its merits, disassociated with any other legislative interest or influence.

It is the practice at Eugene to compare the merits and needs of the State University with the institutions at Seattle, Moscow (Idaho) and Berkeley (California), and to show that the Oregon school is asking for less. The State University at Seattle is the only important educational institution west of the Cascade Mountains in a state with nearly twice Oregon's population; at Moscow, Idaho supports a combined State University and Agricultural College, and at Berkeley, California has similarly united the two institutions. If the appropriation for the Oregon university this year shall be $752,000 (including the $250,000 fixed appropriation), and for the Oregon Agricultural College $570,000, the total for these two will reach the immense sum of $1,322,000. That is certainly going some!

It is invidious, no doubt, to mention items in the stupendous $6,000,000 total; and The Oregonian would avoid the appearance of special opposition or hostility to any worthy Oregon institution; but it will not shrink from its plain duty to all the state in insisting that the Legislature must have in mind, in making up its schedule of appropriations, the welfare of the taxpaying public on the one hand and the merits and needs of every demand from the tax-supported institutions on the other. It is imperative that the Legislature be careful; it is no less imperative that the voices calling for more and more be so modulated as to harmonize with the capacity of the state to pay.

RECIPROCITY FALLACY.

Representative Ellis is opposed to the Canadian reciprocity bill for the alleged reason that it would operate to the detriment of several Oregon industries, among which he includes grain and salmon. He also fears that the competition of foreign ships carrying Canadian cargoes to the New York markets at lower freight rates than would be charged by American ships would prove detrimental.

The statement is absurd that the removal of the tariff on grain would affect prices in Oregon. This state annually has an exportable surplus of from 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 bushels of wheat. Nearly all of it must seek a market in Europe, and the price for that which is marketed elsewhere is based on the European prices. Exactly the same conditions prevail in Canada. Americans are sellers and not buyers of wheat. There would be absolutely no incentive for Canada to ship wheat to Oregon or to any other portion of the United States so long as this country produced enough for home requirements.

Much the same conditions are noticeable in salmon. The Columbia River and Puget Sound pack much more salmon than is packed in Canada, and the most of the surplus from both countries is marketed abroad. Canned salmon, like wheat, has a standard price. Nothing but philanthropy would induce the Canadians to offer their staple in this country at a lower figure than the Americans could obtain.

In regard to the competition of foreign ships, Mr. Ellis might offer an amendment to the reciprocity treaty giving our shippers permission to use the cheapest tonnage obtainable, whether they marketed their products in American or foreign ports. Eventually we must get down to a business basis on ocean tonnage, as well as on other features of trade.

BY RAIL TO CENTRAL OREGON.

Railroad transportation to Central Oregon is about to become a reality. The announcement of Traffic Manager Coman, of the Oregon Trunk, that train service will be established on March 1 from the Columbia River to Metolius, a distance of 105 miles, means that another vast region has been added to Portland's already extensive trade territory. While Metolius will be only a temporary terminus for the line, the difficult and costly construction of the "trunk" line up the Deschutes has been practically completed, and the matter of extending the main line and its branches through all parts of Central Oregon will be comparatively easy.

It would be difficult for Portland or for Central Oregon to overestimate the value of this new line. To an overwhelming extent the unparalleled prosperity that has prevailed in this city and along the north bank of the Columbia River in the past two years is directly traceable to the building of the North Bank line.

Even more satisfactory results will follow the opening of the Oregon Trunk, which is in a manner a feeder of the North Bank line, for while the North Bank gave a water-level outlet to a vast region that was dependent on the old route over the Cascade Mountains, the Oregon Trunk has opened up a region that until the present time has been without any kind of transportation facilities.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the opening of the road for traffic there appeared news of the enthusiastic reception that was accorded the Oregon exhibition cars which the Hill lines are sending through the Eastern States. Having made Central Oregon a habitable place by building the Oregon Trunk, Mr. Hill is now busily engaged in rustling up new settlers to aid in developing a traffic for his new road. Hundreds of the newcomers poured into Central Oregon last year, and from present indications the 1911 movement will be the greatest in the history of the state. Central Oregon has been discovered.

NEED FOR FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Years ago the farmers of the Red River Valley, in Minnesota, derided the idea that the soil of that district could ever become exhausted by the continuous growing of wheat. Today the average yield in that section is said to be about one-third what it was before the virgin elements of the soil had been impaired. Minnesota is now spending $43,000 annually for farmers' institutes. These institutes provide a means whereby the State Agricultural College experts and scientists may give instruction in diversified farming and soil conservation to the farmers who cannot go to the college.

Had this work been undertaken twenty years ago it is probable that Minnesota's wheat farms would now make a different showing. It is probable, too, that if scientific instruction had been carried to the farmers of New England fifty years ago the present-day abandonment and worn-out condition of much of New England's agricultural district would have been avoided.

Oregon now spends $2500 annually for this work. That is to say, there is a continuous appropriation of that amount, a portion of which has reverted to the state in some years largely because the fund was sufficient only to pay the expenses of instructors who could not leave their duties at Corvallis.

The proposition now comes from the Granges in House bill 175 at Salem that this work be undertaken in Oregon on a broader scale than at present; that sufficient money be appropriated to make possible the employment of a directing head of the work and several assistants.

One of the strongest arguments in favor of extending the scope of farmers' institute work in Oregon is found in the attitude of the railroad companies. The Harriman system has recognized the value from the traffic standpoint of proper tillage of the soil and scientific methods in all kinds of agriculture. It has probably expended $10 for every dollar appropriated by the state. The railroad appropriation and the greater part of the state's appropriation, in the last few years, have gone toward operating or equipping farming demonstration trains. These trains have been an invaluable aid to the farming communities, but it is admitted that the work undertaken needs supplementing by instruction and demonstrations carried through a longer period in each locality than is possible in a special train schedule. It seems logical that if the railroad company can see dollars for itself in this work the state should also be able to discern a remuneration.

Oregon is at the right stage of development for extension of the work of the Agricultural College more intimately among the farmers. The soil has not yet become exhausted of its vital elements. There is a great influx of new settlers on the undeveloped lands who have come to the state only with the knowledge of farming under conditions they abandoned in the East. The inexperienced in agriculture are beginning to listen to the "back-to-the-land" call. These people need instruction, and it is to the state's interest that they be instructed in economy and right methods in the branches of farming they may take up.

The farmers' institute work also embraces household economy within its scope, and therein is the opportunity offered for upbuilding a sturdier generation and the making of farm life more attractive.

The whole plan is so thoroughly in accord with true conservation and educational advancement that the only phase, perhaps, on which there need be argument is the amount of the appropriation that the bill shall carry.

THE WIFE-BEATER NOT YET SAFE.

Governor West appears to think that the whipping post, though a "relic of barbarism," ought to be preserved for the punishment of wife-beaters, who are themselves survivors of barbarous times. We do not follow easily the Governor's logic, since it may be said that other doers of violent crimes are also mere barbarians, and the whipping post is nowhere urged as the proper cure for them. But it is not at all necessary on that account to dissent from the Governor's opinion that the whipping post should not be abolished. It is a most handy and convincing weapon to be used in cases of necessity. Wife-beating as an industry in Oregon has greatly declined since the whipping post was established in 1905.

So far as The Oregonian can recall, the whipping post has in the six years of its existence been used but four times in Oregon. Under Sheriff Tom Word's gentle ministrations about five years ago, two brutal husbands were made in Portland to feel the vengeful lash, and Sheriff Stevens four years since performed through a sturdy deputy the same pleasant service for another cowardly brute. In Baker County about the same time there was a lively whipping. But in the interval there has been very little wife-beating and there have been no whippings. Possibly men who have the wife-beating habit have been a little more discreet about time and places; but in any event the public hears little nowadays of such occurrences.

No judge sentencing a wife-beater is required to send him to the post; but he may. Why, then, should the woman-beater be relieved of the wholesome menace of a punishment that may follow his brutal diversion?

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH.

Senator Root has put the question of the election of United States Senators by the people on the ground upon which it was placed by the fathers of the Republic—the makers of the Constitution. Rather he seeks to maintain the manner of choosing the members of the Senate as it was originally restricted and designated.

Any reader of constitutional history will recall the discussion of this question of selecting United States Senators. Eloquence matched eloquence and reason opposed reason in a debate that lasted many days. It was finally decided upon the following presentment: "The people compose two great interests, the landed and the commercial; to draw both branches of Congress from the people would leave no security to commercial interests,—that of the people being chiefly agricultural. Hence if the Senate were chosen by the State Legislature, the elections having been carried through this refinement, there would be apt to result some check in favor of the commercial interest against the landed." This view of the question finally prevailed, all the states present voting for it.

Times have changed, interests have shifted and conditions of trade, traffic and industry have multiplied. The abuse of the legislative system of choosing United States Senators has frequently become a National scandal; the election of Senators has in some instances become a matter of bargain and sale, of venality and corruption. Perhaps these examples have stood out with greater prominence than has the more frequent orderly choice of Senators by State Legislatures. But a feeling that a change of election methods is desirable has come. It is designated by Senator Root as "a mere assent, not a violent desire." He contends further that the electorate would naturally accept any extension of the franchise, that being the insignia of power.

It must be said of Senator Root that he is one who possesses to the full the courage of his convictions in thus arising in the defense of present methods of electing States' Senators. In his judgment the Senate, throughout its history has "performed its duty loyally, faithfully and completely and has supplied to the history of the country a line of illustrious men and a record of achievement which furnish the most convincing proof that the world has ever had that popular government is a possibility among men."

But commendatory words may be said of the lower house of Congress, also. In the selection of its members the wisdom of the masses may be lauded as Senator Root lauds the wisdom and prudence of the founders of the Government and the working out of their plan wherever and whenever it has been successful. And not all the opposition to legislative election of Senators has been caused by actual scandal or corruption. When the Senate first began to take on a superior dignity and to become a social aristocracy in Washington the foundation was laid for the revolt of public sentiment. It is a revolt, not a passive acceptance by the people of proposed additional power. Along with our true statesmen, elected to the Senate for their qualifications, we have a greater number who are there because they can afford it and enjoy the homage the office brings to them. The office of Senator has too often become a rich man's bauble. What are considered the legitimate expenses of the campaign for election are beyond the reach of others than men of wealth. Where money has not actually been expended for legislators' votes boosism and machine politics have too often played their part. The demand now is for greater democracy in the Senate. As the "old order changeth, giving place to the new," it is well to give honor where honor is due. But the prediction may also be confidently voiced that the Senate rosters of the future will reveal not only as much loyalty and refulgence shed by illustrious names as did the Senate of the first century of the Nation, but more. With such prediction fulfilled, no change, however radical, can affect our standing among the nations abroad, and in the hearts of our people at home.

Another New York society woman has been locked up for smuggling. As the particular article over which she came to grief was a $6000 sable coat, the financial necessity for her attempt to break the law was not in evidence. For years the custom of smuggling has been followed by wealthy people who were willing to take a chance on evading the payment of duty because they were reasonably safe in assuming that the maximum punishment would be a fine. The matter of a fine for these aristocratic smugglers is fully as serious as it is for the millionaires who break speed laws with their automobiles. The cold, forbidding walls of a prison, however, have a tendency to check lawbreaking. After the public has read a few more of the tearful accounts of the female aristocrats who are unable to square themselves with money, there will be but little evasion of the customs laws and Uncle Sam will profit accordingly.

The Portland Civic Council has presented to the Legislature a measure designed to reform school methods in Portland. It is the product of industrious and conscientious endeavor by a body of disinterested citizens. It has many meritorious features, though The Oregonian is not prepared to approve the bill as a whole. But it is sure that the bill deserves careful scrutiny and impartial consideration. Unquestionably there are many features in which the administration of the schools here should be improved or changed, and legislation is much desired and needed. This bill has been presented to the Legislature at a very late hour; yet circumstances apparently made delay unavoidable. The Oregonian very much hopes that on that account the Legislature, and especially the Multnomah delegation, will not refuse to give the subject the consideration its importance merits.

It is pleasing to note that the Panama-Pacific Exposition resolution met with plain sailing in the Senate, and is now ready for the signature of the President. Since the overwhelming victory of San Francisco in the House there has never been any doubt about the final settlement of the matter. While still smarting under defeat there were some expressions of resentment from the supporters of New Orleans, and for that reason there was a possibility of some objection being raised in the Senate. The Southerners have proved good losers, and at the proper time can undoubtedly be depended on to join the rest of the United States in aiding San Francisco to make the big show in every way worthy of the great event in honor of which it is given.

All doubt concerning the 1915 fair in San Francisco having been removed by the Senate's vote Saturday, boys and girls all over the land will now begin saving pennies and nickels in preparation for the memorable journey they will make when they reach the age of 18 or 19.

In refusing to sign the repeal of the whipping-post bill for wife-beaters Governor West said that he owed most of his success in life to his mother, his wife and his lady friends. Can it be that he has thus early forgotten the public efforts of his genial friend, Senator Bourne?

With the church people all demanding his recall, the "sports" a unit and the saloonmen standing shoulder to shoulder against him Mayor Fawcett in seeking re-election under the recall must place great confidence in his ability to flirt with the suffragette vote.

The Portland women who have China pheasant feathers on their hats can extend their sympathy to Mrs. Robert Menges Corwin Hill who is doing three days in the Tombs for smuggling a sable coat into America.

Once more The Oregonian's classified "ad" columns brought together separated relatives—this time a father in California and a son in Linn County, Oregon. As has been remarked heretofore by sages, it pays to advertise.

The pure food experts say cakes are made with rotten eggs, ice cream is adulterated and candy is made from poisonous ingredients. What is the poor girl to do? She would die on kisses. Think of the germs.

The Chinese plague is slaying 99 per cent of its victims, and yet the Chinese refuse to recognize incineration and sanitation. Nature will work out the problem in its own way, in seeing that only the fittest survive.

Those highwaymen who have been holding up restaurants in Chicago and Denver are acting on the spur of the moment before the high cost of living is reduced by the reciprocity treaty.

With a twelve-story wing on the Portland Hotel and a mammoth wing on the Nortonia the bonifaces of Portland evidently intend to do some high flying before 1912.

The Oregon dairymen will enjoy a banquet soon at the Commercial Club rooms. Arrangements are being made to have some one respond to the milk toast.

If the present style in hair prevails and Spokane carries out her threat to elect a suffragette Mayor the executive head may prove to be false.

It certainly would be a handsome act for President Taft to send San Francisco a valentine in the shape of his signature to the fair bill.

Ninety million Americans on the latest anniversary joined in writing Lincoln's name larger on the pages of history.

In such weather as this, good roads make such strong appeal that the Legislature shouldn't hesitate.

The darkest news of the Mexican War is coming from Mulato.

DEFENSE OF LOCAL COMMISSION

Ben Riesland Asserts Malarkey Bill Favors Corporations.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to ask for a small space in The Oregonian to outline briefly the reasons why the public service central committee of Portland, Or., of which I am chairman, has taken such a decided stand against the Malarkey Senate bill No. 73.

We enjoyed the privilege of a hearing before the railway committee of the Senate on January 20. At this conference it was shown conclusively that the Malarkey bill had been drawn very loosely; in fact, Mr. Malarkey gladly admitted that he was not the author of the bill. At this meeting and at other times in my hearing he has passed the burden of authorship to the shoulders of Clyde Aitcheson, of the State Railway Commission.

I notice that in The Oregonian's report of the Senate proceeding published on February 11 Mr. Malarkey was quoted as saying that there were fallacies in the initiative bill as proposed for the City of Portland. Then a few general statements were made criticising this bill, which were so weak and devoid of argument that I will not refer to them. I wish to say further that at our several meetings with Mr. Malarkey in debate on this question he has never successfully shown any fallacies or weakness in the initiative bill, but he has confessed directly that his bill, which he is ashamed to own, is a jumble of the grossest inconsistencies. So vulnerable is his act that, in order to get his constituents in the Senate to vote for it, it was necessary for him to make 43 amendments in his bill. His best friends and closest colleagues in the Senate, upon whom every argument had been used and every exchange of Senatorial courtesy exhausted, refused to support his measure without this purging process. This Senate bill No. 73, but a faint shadow of the Wisconsin act, is, I believe, by its own confession, the loosest and poorest bill introduced in the Oregon Legislature of 1911. Compare it carefully with the Wisconsin act, from which its backers say it was copied, and you will find that the teeth of the Wisconsin act are extracted. Who is it that has dared openly to defend the Malarkey bill? Who was willing to go on record as favoring it? I have never heard anyone speak publicly in its favor except Mr. Malarkey himself. I have never read in print about anyone personally backing his style of act except certain public service corporations of the City of Portland. From this I reason that the mission of this act is to destroy the initiative measure which has been filed with the City Auditor of the City of Portland. Any statement that municipal regulation will be a failure is the height of absurdity. In the first year of municipal regulation in the City of New York the loss of life by accident through public service corporations was reduced 30 per cent. The reason for this is the efficiency of a local commission which is always on the ground. It is more than likely that if Portland now enjoyed the advantages of a local public service commission the terrible accident which happened Saturday afternoon on the Madison bridge would never have occurred. One of the principal objects of the commission, as created by the local measure, is to inspect plants and equipment and require and compel the use of safety and life-protecting appliances. The local corporations do not desire this. They wish to do as the Portland Railway, Light & Power Co. has done for these many years past with the streetcar fenders of the city: Use their own pleasure, the safety of the public notwithstanding. For this reason Portland public service corporations are boosting the Malarkey bill and opposing the local measure. "By their fruits ye shall know them," and by its indorsers, judge a law. The corporations want a vague and foggy act with its seat of action far from the heart of their operations. Why is not the right of the initiative preserved to the citizens of Portland so that they may enact a law to cover their own needs if Mr. Malarkey's bill does not provide the relief required? Is it not true that the cities of the United States which do not enjoy local regulation have not the right of initiative by which to acquire it? I say yes, without a chance of contradiction! The blessings of direct legislation are in the hands of the citizens of Portland. I firmly believe that whosoever tampers with this safeguard of public rights will have occasion to regret his rash act. If this cry that the whole State of Oregon needs regulation is true, why not enact a law which places the State of Oregon under a general commission but allows cities which need local regulation to handle the question themselves? What affair of the state's is it if a separate municipality desires to rule its corporations and pay for such ruling? Is it not an injustice to the rest of the state to expect it to pay for regulating corporate abuses in Portland? The initiative act carries with it two ordinances taxing electric light, power and gas companies 3 per cent of their gross earnings. This will easily take care of all expenses of a local commission.

I believe that on mature and careful consideration the House of Representatives will see fit to consign Senate bill No. 73 to the scrap heap where it properly belongs. I believe that the Legislature of the State of Oregon will not so far forget itself as to deny the right of the initiative to the metropolis of the state.

BEN RIESLAND.

Hard-Surface District Opposed.

PORTLAND, Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)—In reference to street improvement it is proposed to form a district to hard-surface every street from the river to East Twentieth, Burnside to Hawthorne.

Hard-surface paving is certainly a good thing, but in the proposed district there are a number of macadam streets yet in good condition, such as East Stark, Alder, Taylor; also several cross streets. Are they all to be torn up and carted away because the paving companies want a nice fat job? It is usually conceded that they are the originators of those schemes, and reward their booster solicitors for each property owner's signature that they may obtain.

Now there are a number of close in streets throughout the city that have never been improved in the first instance. Would it not be more beneficial as a whole, for the paving boosters to hunt up those scattered unimproved streets? Of course it would not be so desirable a plum as getting a compact square mile of near-in streets to improve.

There is an organization that styles itself the East Side Business Men's Club, which informed the public lately that it also would boost for the proposed improvement. Would it not be well for this club to devote its energies to its own particular line of business and let the property-owners attend to theirs, as they are the ones who will be called upon to foot the bill?

In the proposed district to be improved there are still a number of wooden sidewalks which might well be exchanged for cement. Otherwise, a number of the streets are still in good condition.

A CITIZEN.

Thoughtless.

Washington Evening Star.

"Which," asked the court jester, "came first, the chicken or the egg?"

"Really," replied the monarch, wearily, "you should know better than to bring these questions of precedence to my personal attention. You know that they are entirely looked after by officials appointed for that purpose."

LABOR LAW IS NOT THREATENED

Abbott Compensation Bill Held to Be Progressive Step.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—While attending the World's Congress on Tuberculosis at Washington, D. C., in September and October of 1908, I had the pleasure of several interviews with Dr. Meyer, who is at the head of the hospital department of the German Workmen's Association of Berlin. Dr. Meyer informed me that he had the care of 500,000 German workmen. He spoke with enthusiasm of the movement and what it is accomplishing in caring for the disabled workmen, preventing the suffering of the families during their incapacitated state, thereby giving assistance at a time when they otherwise must have suffered for the necessities of life. He claims this movement to be of great value to all parties concerned, insuring comfort and necessities of life to the workingman and his family, thus preventing inroads of disease which so often follow as a result of hardships, privations and making of Germany in the care of her citizenship the most justly administered and most healthful both from the standpoint of state and peasant of the countries of the earth.

I am most happy to notice the Abbott bill No. 254, which is before the Legislature at the present time, bearing along somewhat similar lines to the German law. The object of this bill is to bring about conditions where the man who works and is injured shall not become the dependent, but, having contributed day by day to his own defense while in health and strength, by the payment of three-fourths of 1 per cent of his daily wage, with the employer devoting 1½ per cent, and the state 1 per cent toward a fund which will insure hospital accommodations, and a stated sum per week during disability, and a definite and fixed amount in case of the loss of wage-earning capacity, or death, thereby provides for his own care and safety and likewise seeing that the mother and the babies do not suffer during this unfortunate lapse of his ability to provide for his dependent family.

After perusing carefully the initiative bill No. 330 I am confident that none of the rights of said bill is in any way invalidated by the passage of the Abbott bill, but, on the contrary, it is a step in advancing and safeguarding the rights of both the employer and the employed in avoiding oftentimes unwise and useless legislation, thereby contributing to the integrity, happiness and wellbeing of the citizenship of this great commonwealth.

It has been truly said that the integrity of our country lies in the strength, health and happiness of her citizenship; granting that such be the case, what better movement could be inaugurated at this time, while the nations of the civilized world are vieing with each other in this great campaign of education and advancement, to teach the methods of correct living and prevention of disease than in this most humane effort to safeguard the interests of the boy who works deep in the mine that we may be warm; who imperils his life on the skidway rolling the logs that we may be properly housed, or who stands in the driving rain oftentimes with unsuitable garments to tamp the tie that we may ride safely past in our well-equipped and comfortable car?

That the world has been swept by violent epidemics and many lives have been lost by disease and privation, while one is sacrificed by the sword is most true. And equally true is the statement that want, privation, improper food and living quarters are largely responsible for the spread of these epidemics.

We cannot afford to let the bacilli of discontent, remorse or helplessness emanate from our courthouses consequent upon the trial of personal injury cases. The direct effect on society as a result of such strife is as injurious to the commonwealth as the pestilence of any infectious disease is to the body politic. Therefore, as the world is now awakening to the greatest struggle for humanity and better citizenship that history has recorded, let us place ourselves side by side with that great movement in Germany, which has challenged the admiration of the civilized world, in abolishing strife, in the protection and safeguarding of the interests of both the employer, employe and the dependent women and children.

In your issue of February 5 I noticed a most masterful plea for the Abbott bill, and I most heartily join in the effort in support of this great humane measure. Sincerely, E. A. PIERCE.

SEIZURE OF PHEASANT PLUMAGE

Audubon Society Asserts Its Acts Are Based on Evidence.

JENNINGS LODGE, Feb. 11.—(To the Editor.)—In a short editorial in The Oregonian I have noted a criticism of the Oregon Audubon Society for its recent effort to stop the market demand for China pheasant plumage. The statement is as follows:

"In its zeal, the Audubon Society is going too far when it confiscates the plumage of China pheasants indiscriminately."

This statement is erroneous, because the Audubon Society has been extremely careful not to touch plumage indiscriminately. It has pretty good evidence concerning the plumage that was seized. It is ready to submit this evidence in court whenever the cases come to trial.

There has been some discussion concerning the law about China pheasant plumage. Certain statements have appeared in print which are not exactly correct and which may have given the impression that the Audubon Society is more radical in its stand than it really is. We realize that China pheasants are raised in captivity. A special law passed at the session of the Legislature two years ago provides for the rearing and disposing in the market of birds raised in captivity.

It may seem to some people that the Audubon Society is going too far against the use of the plumage of the China pheasant. It may be argued that, since it is permissible to kill these birds one month in the year or rear them in captivity, the plumage may as well be used for millinery purposes as to be thrown away or destroyed.

The Oregon Audubon Society has taken this stand, namely: the facts show that there has been a growing market demand for the plumage of male pheasants. That demand has increased until these birds are being killed, not for their meat, but for the plumage. In good condition, the plumage of a single bird, up to last week, was selling for from $5 to $10 in the open market. No one can deny that the China pheasants have been decreasing in number. One cause of decrease is this demand for plumage. The Audubon Society has felt that, under the circumstances, this market demand should be stopped. We feel the law was made for this purpose. The members have gone this far and no further. If the facts we have collected are taken into consideration, we do not feel that either The Oregonian or the people of the state will condemn the members of this organization for being too zealous.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY,
President Oregon Audubon Society.

"WHEN THE ORCHARD COMES IN BEARING."

When our orchard comes in bearing
And we have the coin galore,
We'll buy a brand new airship
And autos, three or four;
We'll take a trip to Europe
And buy some steamship docks,
Then "beat it" back to Portland
And buy some business blocks,
Endow a university,
Buy Jim Hill's railroad line,
And also John D.'s Standard Oil
And Clarke's Montana mine!

* * *

Oh this is but a starter;
We'll really do much more—
"When our orchard comes in bearing,"
And we have the coin galore.

DEAN DAYTON. Underwood.

SCRAPS AND JINGLES

BY LEONE CASS BAER.

It's the woman with the past who generally has the most presents.

* * *

"Sermons are stones," says someone, and when
The parson rails and howls and groans
We naturally feel that this goodly man
Is throwing stones.

* * *

Quotation from "Romeo and Juliet" adapted to changes in Seattle and Tacoma: "Oh swear not by the boom, the inconstant boom."

* * *

Motto for the Dental Association: "Tooth will out."

* * *

List of new pupils in a medical college contains the name of James De Ath. Cheerful way of putting it.

* * *

Rush-a-by, rush-a-by, motor-fiend man,
Zip 'round the corners as fast as you can,
Scare me and tear me and chortle with glee,
And hike away quick from gutter and me.

* * *

Is the rubber industry necessarily whist?

* * *

TO SAINT VAL.

I.

First aid to swain and his lassie,
You are on your last legs I trow.
Your long gentle reign's now over
Because it is "bad form" to vow.
Nor "de rigeur" to be Cupid's vassal,
"Awful style" to go courting in verse,
But if the old couplets were silly,
It's a cinch the new ones are worse.

II.

Your darts and hearts and bird-pipings
Were sweet like a simple caress,
Now we're such cynics and wise guys
Sentiment we never confess.
Your world was made up of true hearts,
With Cupid its dear little god.
Now we've no time for weak nonsense,
We're neurotic slaves of the odd.

* * *

My idea of a counter-irritant is that gently superior drawl, "I'm busy, madam, will wait on you in a moment."

* * *

Altruism is boring some people about some other people.

* * *

LIZZIE'S LAMENT.

Say, Gert, you never heard the like!
Look! Tears on my lashes glisten;
I'm scart 'twill make the paint come off,
But I've 'nough to cry for, listen:
You know that spell o' cold last week.
Gee! It made me quiver
I wore my cat furs and old suit,
My! but I did shiver.
But my sorrer can't be told, Gert.
Crushed. That's me. But I must bear it.
Now I've got a grand swell pony coat
It's so durned hot I can't wear it.

* * *

Wanted—Someone to second the motion that all verdicts of divorce or separation be reported in the papers under the ordinary business heading Partnerships Dissolved.

* * *

All problem and no play makes drama a dull joy.

* * *

The average woman's idea of untidiness is the way some other woman does her hair.

* * *

One year ago, my gentle Clare,
For you I wrote a verse or so,
In which I sung your virtues rare,
One wee short year ago.
And while your nature, dear I trow
Has sweetness brimming o'er to spare
And faults were charms; I also know
I found an incompleteness there
To comprehend this I was slow.
Just what was needed I declare
To make you perfect. Now I know!
A hobble skirt you did not wear
One wee, short year ago.

* * *

Miss Calamity Step-and-fetch-it, the clever and talented, etc., authoress of Kalama, writes to say that she is "busily engaged" in concocting some verses, "Spring Comes," a companion piece to her other spasm, "Autumn Leaves."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, February 13, 1861.

There has been a gradual and mysterious disappearance of chickens from the neighborhood. One day the murder came out. It appears that a piece of meat may be attached to a hook with a string reaching into the house and when the "doomed" chicken nibbles the meat he is instantly "hooked." Now a small dog, wandering in the vicinity one day, gobbled down the meat and when the chicken-hookers attempted to haul him in he set up such an unearthly yelling that the entire population of women and small boys within hearing hastened to the spot. The game was up and the dog was released.

A. H. Frances (colored) of this city, who has been extensively engaged in the dry goods business, it is reported, has failed.

A correspondent writing from Walla Walla under date of February 3 gives us the following statistics of that portion of the country: The population of Walla Walla town is about 500 souls, and of the valley 1800—400 of whom are in Oregon. There are 12 stores, 1 confectionery, 6 whisky and two shoe shops, one butcher, two wagon, one tailor and two barber shops and two livery stables.

We learn that a man named Austin Daniel is missing from the neighborhood of Albany. An attempt to rob a man named Carter was made in the same vicinity about a week ago. A Mr. Miller was also fired at but escaped without injury. Crime appears to be rife in that portion of the state.

The Times of yesterday contains an article which, as we take it, means about as follows: If the Gulf States secede, California and Oregon are entitled to leave the Union also. That is, if South Carolina rebels we have a right to do the same. If Tom steals Sam's hat, Dick has a right to take his boots and Harry his shirt. . . . We tell the Times and all concerned that in the alternative of a Pacific Republic or adherence of the Union the National Democrats and Republicans will stand as one man for Union and those who propose to go out will find themselves compelled to stay in.

Youngest Great-grandmother.

Baltimore Sun.

North Carolina has the youngest grandfather in the country, and now comes to the front with the youngest great-grandmother.

She is Mrs. Addie Ward, of Mecklenburg County, and was 46 years old in December. Her daughter is Mrs. A. J. Lawing, 32 years old, the grandmother; her granddaughter is Mrs. W. A. Adams, 15 years old, the mother of the great-granddaughter, Beulah Adams, 9 months old.

The First Cause.

Washington Evening Star.

"I, sir," remarked the indignant citizen, "am a taxpayer."

"Well," replied the political boss, "you have me to thank. You wouldn't be nearly as much of a taxpayer as you are excepting for my efforts."