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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1911.

DIRECT LEGISLATION IN OKLAHOMA.

We are indebted to the New York Sun for the views of the Enid Events upon the subject of the initiative and referendum. Enid is in the State of Oklahoma, the Enid Events is a newspaper, and Oklahoma has one form of the initiative and referendum.

This Oklahoma journal is obviously not an advocate of direct legislation, for we find it commenting thus:

"During our three years and one-half of the initiative and referendum and recall the people of Oklahoma have initiated no legislation, recalled no officials and referred no legislation either state or local.

"If the reader will think a moment he will conclude that the initiative, referendum and recall are so unwieldy that their effectiveness is destroyed except as they are used by political or other firmly established organizations, backed by plenty of money.

"It would be an impossibility for a few individuals to initiate or refer legislation or recall an official except they erect a sufficient organization and expend considerable money. It would be necessary to open headquarters, employ helpers and petition circulators, and spend from several months to a year initiating and bringing the proposition to a vote. In the meantime and in making the fight it would be necessary to spend many thousands of dollars."

As a consequence of the statements thus set forth, the Sun exults, seemingly, that the mountain erected by the uplifters of civilization and good government has not brought forth even a mouse. We have a distinct recollection, however, that several Eastern journals have commiserated with the voters of Oregon over the task imposed upon them through the initiative and referendum, of rejecting or approving thirty-two proposed laws or amendments in the last election. It therefore seems that the opponents look upon too much direct legislation as a bad thing, and too little direct legislation as equally vicious.

The inquiry naturally arises as to why Oregon, with the initiative and referendum, should find direct legislation burdensome, while Oklahoma apparently ignores its opportunities. We take it that the Enid Events does not mean to imply that the voters of Oklahoma have never had a measure presented through the initiative or referendum. In the last election six enactments were referred to the people of that state. Each of the measures failed at the polls. In other words, no legislation was accomplished, although the machinery was in motion. On the whole, this circumstance is not any sounder argument that direct legislation is a failure than is the experience of Oregon, with its horse-blanket ballot. The term "initiative and referendum" is applied to a principle which may be worked out in a variety of ways. Oregon has gone to one extreme and adopted the wide-open, ever-ready and easily-manipulated type. Oklahoma has possibly gone to the other extreme and adopted an over-cumbersome type, although the record so far does not necessarily make that the inevitable conclusion.

In Oregon, voters to the number of 8 per cent of the total vote cast for Justice of the Supreme Court may present laws or constitutional amendments by initiative petition, while the number required to refer laws enacted by the Legislature must be at least 5 per cent.

The percentages in Oklahoma are the same for laws, but 15 per cent of the voters must sign initiative petitions for constitutional amendments. The basis for applying the percentage differs in Oklahoma from that in Oregon, for in Oklahoma the percentage is calculated on the highest number of votes cast for any state office. In Oregon the candidates for Governor receive normally from 15,000 to 20,000 more votes than do the candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court. A change in the ratio and percentage in Oregon to those adopted in Oklahoma would undoubtedly make an important difference in the number of measures submitted in this state.

In addition to this difference, the Oklahoma Legislature may prescribe other restrictions by law, and it has adopted the plan of making approval of a measure contingent upon its receiving a total affirmative vote at least equal to a majority of the total vote cast in the election. In Oregon, if the affirmative vote exceeds the negative vote on any measure presented, the measure is approved. Had the Oklahoma plan existed in Oregon at the time of the last election, not one of the thirty-two measures would have been approved, whereas, under the Oregon system, nine were adopted.

The initiative and referendum, adopted in Montana in 1905, has not been used extensively, if at all. There the percentages are the same as in Oregon, but the base is the vote for Governor and petitions must be signed by the required percentage of the voters in two-fifths of the counties of the state. The people have not the power to initiate constitutional amendments, nor to initiate or refer laws carrying appropriations.

Contrasted last year with Montana and Oklahoma was South Dakota, where the voters, as in Oregon, were overburdened with legislation. Five per cent of the voters may initiate a measure in South Dakota, but the constitutional provision provides that such measure shall first go to the Legislature and by it be submitted to the people.

Other states that have adopted or propose to adopt the initiative and referendum have almost, if not quite, invariably chosen no other state's system. Washington proposes percentages and ratios different from those in Oregon, and will exclude constitutional amendments from the provisions of the act. Arizona's much-discussed constitution uses the vote for Governor as the basis for calculating the percentage required to initiate or refer measures. Illinois' proposed act could more properly be termed a form of imperative mandate than a form of the initiative and referendum. Under the proposed Illinois plan a law initiated must first go to the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to adopt it, it is then submitted to vote of the people, but only in the event that 25 per cent of the members of the Legislature vote affirmatively for the measure.

One well may speculate as to which is the best plan. If one believes that the initiative and referendum is a proper substitute for the Legislative Assembly, he may logically approve the Oregon plan. If he believes that the initiative and referendum should be held as a reserve power to attain for the people only that which they need and desire, but which the Legislature refuses to give them, or to prevent the Legislature from imposing upon the people something that the people do not desire, then he may logically approve the Oklahoma or the Illinois or some other plan.

According to The Oregonian's way of thinking, the initiative and referendum should not be an instrument freely offered to the faddist, the experimenter, the demagogue, the special interest or the political clique. Its use should be so restrained and safeguarded that it would be impossible to submit any measure to vote of the people unless it were honestly drafted, clearly worded and so earnestly desired that it would be unnecessary for paid emissaries to solicit signatures in its behalf. In the light of the experiences of Oklahoma and Oregon with different forms of direct legislation machinery, the people of the Southwestern state should be content that their system is too cumbersome for use except when the public welfare is in actual stress.

ANTI-RECIPROCITY TWADDLE.

The quantity of twaddle which is uttered in the name of the farmers upon the subject of reciprocity is astounding. Thus John M. Stahl, legislative agent of the Farmers' National Congress, says, among other uninspired remarks, that "the farmer is not the one to strike at because of the high price of foodstuffs to city consumers." Who wishes "to strike at the farmer?" Certainly the advocates of reciprocity do not. Mr. Stahl himself admits that the prices of farm products at the farm gate are about as low as they can possibly get with all the boasted benefit of the tariff on wheat and corn.

This ought to prove to an intelligent person that the tariff has nothing whatever to do with the amount the farmers receive for their grain and stock. They get what the middlemen choose to pay them and no more. Since their receipts at present just skim the margin of the cost of production, they could not receive less under any conditions. If the price falls below the cost of production, the farmers must go into some other business.

Mr. Stahl cites another fact which he supposes to prove that reciprocity would injure the farmers. It really proves that the market price of their products is fixed by agencies entirely uncontrolled by the tariff. He says that "the price of hogs on the Illinois and Iowa farm has been for the last thirty days only 60 per cent of what it was for the same period in 1910." And this is under the beneficent protective tariff. If prices can fall 60 per cent in one year how in the name of common sense does the tariff help the farmer? We admit that it helps the middleman who exploits the farmer. After he has swindled the producer out of his crop the tariff helps him swindle the consumer out of his wages, but does this benefit the worker in the fields?

The most sublime passage in Paradise Lost is Milton's apostrophe to light. The most essential and the safest thing in all the world is light. Men feel the need of it so much that sometimes they imagine darkness to be light. Mr. Stahl seems to suffer badly from this illusion. Would that the scales might fall from his eyes before he plays the part of the blind leading the blind a great deal more.

PROMOTION WORK SYSTEMATIZED.

It is asserted, and undoubtedly with truth, that no commercial body ever engaged in so comprehensive a campaign of advertising as that recently undertaken by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. As one of the crowning efforts of this campaign is the appearance of a 32-page album, with illustrations in color, entitled "Oregon, the Land of Opportunity." This album is intended for free distribution, largely among possible investors, and is the acme of that type of color promotion literature which has found such great favor among Oregon communities.

The energy of the Chamber of Commerce, however, is by no means confined to the publication of artistic albums. The system adopted by the organization embraces a series of pamphlets, each dealing with special industries. A small booklet sent broadcast presents in colors views taken in many localities of Oregon. An attached postcard gives a list of the special pamphlets and invites request for the publication dealing with the industry or occupation in which the recipient is particularly interested. These pamphlets include instructive and descriptive treatises of the climatic conditions of Oregon, the apple industry, other fruits and nuts, intensive farming, dairying and stockraising, poultry. One pamphlet tells what can be done with $1000 to $5000 in Oregon, another tells only of public lands, another of education, still another answers questions concerning general conditions. Fourteen different publications are either ready for distribution or in process of printing.

Unusual merit is found in these publications by reason of their comprehensive yet conservative treatment of special subjects. The inauguration of the plan has undoubtedly been expensive, but the systematized effort to reach the individual should prove economical in the long run by reason of its saving of ammunition. The homeseeker or investor is not burdened with the task of searching through a large publication for the matter that particularly interests him. He can obtain the information desired, told tersely and by writers of authority, and the fund is not depleted by sending him a mass of material in order that he may find something about his one specialty.

It is a work that merits continuance and is one that should have the financial support of all who are now established in Portland and expect to derive benefit from the further growth and prosperity of the state.

HOLDING UP THREE INSTITUTIONS.

It is curious and may be significant that the three centers of the movement against the Monmouth Normal, the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College appropriations are Yamhill County, which has no state institutions, Marion County, which has nearly all the state institutions, and Cottage Grove, which has a deadly hostility toward Eugene and all its works and ambitions. But the State University and the Agricultural College and the normal school are open alike and on equal conditions to students from Yamhill and Marion counties and from Cottage Grove, and they ought to have support there as in every other part of Oregon.

It should be assumed that the people of Oregon definitely and finally settled the vexed normal school problem when through the initiative a year ago they declared for Monmouth and against the other normal proposals. Do not the people know what they want and what they do not want? And if they want it, are they not entitled to have it? A few years ago, too, there was another referendum on the University of Oregon and the institution was sustained. The verdict of the people was therefore for the university. Why another referendum now except for spite or revenge or perverseness or jealousy? It is not creditable to Oregon that its State University should be hampered and attacked by recurrent movements of this kind.

Let us have an end of this referendum business on these three institutions, that they may move forward to desirable positions of service and usefulness to the people of Oregon.

THE SAME OLD PARTIES?

Party lines have been weakened by the progress of events during the past several years; but they have by no means disappeared. There are yet two great parties and nothing in the signs of the times indicates the immediate dissolution or submersion of one or the other. Everyone knows that there will be a mighty contest next year between the historic National parties, and no one believes that defeat of one or the other will involve it in irretrievable disaster.

Yet we see strange portents in the political firmament. President Taft works willingly and deliberately with the Democratic majority in the House and the Democratic minority in the Senate to put through Canadian reciprocity. He is opposed by the majority of his own party, though an assertive minority stands by the Administration and makes possible, and even probable, its success.

The question is going to be asked next year whether a Republican President or a half-Democratic Congress is responsible for Canadian reciprocity. The Democratic platform will point with pride to the disinterested and patriotic action of the Democratic Congressmen in carrying out the great Democratic principle of Canadian free trade, and the Republican platform is going to do the best it can with a vexatious and awkward issue. It will doubtless praise the President mildly and direct toward the Democrats a broadside of artistic and withering denunciation—for what? Clearly the Republican party will be face to face with a grave dilemma, and the Democrats are sure to garner the fruits of their consummate strategy and political wisdom in Congress.

Yet we see President Taft pushing straight ahead, and his party sinking straight down in the mire of its own perplexity and fatuity. Party lines do not concern the President; evidently they do not trouble the country. His own political future gives his enemies more anxiety than it gives Taft; the country approves heartily and pointedly his lofty self-renunciation and appears to be preparing to reward so noble a sacrifice by voting for another as his successor.

Withal we find no public man leaving the Republican party because the ship is thought to be sinking; nor do we find the warlike and irreconcilable insurgents carrying out their supposed purpose of organizing a party of their own. Not at all. Even La Follette stands pat as a Republican, though he attempts to create of the insurgents a party within a party. What La Follette and his followers will do next year, when Taft shall be renominated, may be questioned; but where will he go if he goes and where will he end at the end? La Follette, it may be supposed, would doubtless become an apostate if he could carry the Republican party of Wisconsin with him; but he can accomplish nothing more than its ruin and his own political demise by so radical a course. So he stays.

President Taft stands immeasurably better before the country now than he did a few months since; but does his party? Evidently not; yet there are many opportunities in the next few months for the Democrats to blunder; and when have the Democrats failed to walk into any pit dug for them?

PENSIONS FOR PRESIDENTS' WIDOWS.

The abuse of the pension system is the same whether it applies to relatively young widows of veterans who served as soldiers in the ranks or to the same class of applicants who were married to veterans higher up in the line of military position. Thus there is no more reason in justice as applied to the basic pension idea in giving the relatively young widow of General Benjamin Harrison a pension than there is in giving a pension to youthful Mary Smith, widow of private John Smith, who served in the Civil War long before she was born. The principle is the same in both cases. Neither the one widow nor the other deserves anything of the Government for having married the man she chose, though if the pension idea is to be worked out on a charity basis Mary Smith is the fitter subject of the two for governmental bounty.

With the widow of President Garfield, the case is different, since she shared with the soldier the anxieties and dangers of war, doing nobly the woman's part in war by keeping the home and caring for the children and the aged mother of the soldier while he was afield performing the man's duty in stress of war.

As for Mrs. Cleveland—well she is one of three widows of ex-Presidents. That is all that can be said in favor of giving her $5000 a year. She has several growing children to bring up and educate, but Grover Cleveland, besides having been a safe and sagacious President, was also a provident and worthy father, and provided from his own efforts, as worthy fathers do, for the maintenance and education of his offspring. Why, then, should the country be called to assume or supplement this service?

It is the abuse of the pension idea as exemplified in cases where the pension is neither just nor necessary that makes it impossible to check its excesses or vigorously to protest them under the ordinary conditions of life. It is thus that the pension idea, noble in its conception, and just in its intent, has been debased by the free-handed and unjust bestowal of its privilege.

LOCKWOOD.

Mr. Logan calls Charlie Lockwood "a menace, a drag and a detriment to the Republican party." This is official, for Mr. Logan is chairman of the Multnomah County Central Committee. The immediate occasion for the pointed remarks of the chairman was an effort by Lockwood to get his thirsty grip on the organization of the city committee.

Lockwood is small fry; but he is a type. There are many Lockwoods, far too many. They do infinite harm to any cause or any party upon which they chance to force themselves. The matter with the Republican party in Portland is Lockwoodism. The people are tired of feeding the party leeches. They are weary of seeing the Lockwoods around. The low estate of the Republican organization in the general mind is the identification of party and party organization and party effort and party purpose with the Lockwoods. The party exists, apparently, to feed the Lockwoods at its crib. The only way to get rid of the Lockwoods is to destroy the party, so they destroy the party. But the Lockwoods go on forever.

So long as the Republican party in Portland tolerates Lockwood and his odious kind it will not have the public confidence. And it should not have.

Members of the Star Grange, now in session at Corvallis, to the number of 250, visited the State Agricultural College Wednesday, were escorted through the grounds by the gallant cadets of the military department, through the buildings by the officers, and were banqueted by the young women of the School of Domestic Science and Art. Needless to say, they were highly pleased and entertained by what they saw, heard and ate. Depend upon it, the Oregon Agricultural College will get what it asks of the State Legislature if the Grange members of that body have the deciding vote. Old-fashioned farming and the old way of teaching farming were all right in their day, but new methods are for new times. In the forefront of the progress for which the State Agricultural College stands is the "Order of the Patrons of Husbandry" and its expression through the Grange.

The new $2 cash register is all very well, but what is really wanted is an automatic salesman which will sell goods and swallow the pay. At the end of the day the stomach can be opened and the cash put in the safe. Edward Everett Hale describes an automatic escort in one of his stories which served the purpose as well as if it had been a living man. This shows how little real difficulty there would be in the way of an automatic clerk, or salesman, if some inventor would apply his mind to the problem.

The sailor dead will be honored at Vancouver on Decoration day by the beautiful custom that has prevailed in the garrison city for some years—that of casting roses upon the current of the broad Columbia River at that place. A more fitting tribute to the heroes of the sea-arm of the Government service could scarcely be devised. Whether current-borne or tide-tossed, these flowers will exale incense to the memory of many gallant men whose duty took them down to the sea in ships.

Just over the hills back of Portland, a stone's throw (if you throw it far enough), in the town of Beaverton, where the onion thrives on the beaverdam land, lives the latest Oregon newspaper baby, the Reporter, which for style, spirit, make-up and setting of "display" is entitled to the blue ribbon.

When will railroads give over the pleasant fiction of spreading rails as cause of accident? Why should rails spread if the track is given the attention it needs for constant traffic? A rail may break, but not spread if properly spiked.

The Custom-House people might make a dicker with Pendleton and get rid of the fireworks on hand. Pendleton does not want a celebration that savors of sanity, so-called. Pendleton purposes making a noise.

The State Grange would use the hair to cure the bite by putting liquor license money into the penitentiary fund. Some states find the plan advantageous of putting that money into the school fund.

Just to give an idea of progress in one small town, it may be stated that Nehalem is building a three-story hotel on a foundation 50 by 80. That would be "some tent" in many a pretentious city.

Somebody besides rebel soldiers and adventurous Americans is likely to be hurt if the game of war is kept up much longer in Mexico. It looks now as if it might be Diaz.

Chicago boasts a May temperature of 87 degrees. If memory serves correctly—the records not being instantly available—Portland did that well one day last April.

One proposed law by the State Grange has merit—to prevent swearing in votes. At present the law helps the lazy man.

People with the strawberry appetite must have them, even from so far distant as Tennessee.

A possible ride on a dead horse seems to knock the nerve of the best man for Mayor.

When cash registers get down to $2 apiece, every housewife can ring up the "old man."

Your Uncle Binger, old warhorse that he is, scents the fray a long way off.

MR. LAFFERTY EXTENDS THANKS.

Pleased That Campaign Which Won Him Votes Is Renewed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—(To the Editor.)—In the late campaign certain Portland papers made fun of my name. They accused me of changing it often. They advertised me and made me many votes. It pleases me immensely to see that they are now starting a campaign for my re-election, should I again seek public office. Again, my name is made the subject of their much appreciated sarcasm.

These same fellows also charged me during the campaign with being insincere in my professions of friendship for the public, as against the special interests, with being a disreputable lawyer, who "had been up for disbarment before the Land Department," and with having been arrested for "insulting decent women on the streets of Portland." In the face of these charges, made by these "influential" papers, the people went right ahead and elected me by a large majority. It seems that the people ought to have a guardian. Well, the people of Oregon have managed to stumble along and do pretty well electing officers for several years, and they are getting on to publications that profess great friendship for the people, and then always support the candidate with the longest pocketbook.

I admitted everything they charged against me last campaign except the allegation that I had been arrested for insulting decent women on the streets. If they had said I should have been arrested for any reason, instead of saying that I actually had been arrested, perhaps I would not have denied that. But as it was I made the statement in my speech at Sixth and Washington streets just before the election that if they would produce the record showing where I had ever been arrested in my life on any charge, or the statement of any officer who made the arrest, that I would withdraw from the race, and that if such proof could be produced after my election that I would resign. I am still waiting for the proof and my challenge then made still holds good. They failed to produce the proof, but now say I spoke to "indignant women" on the streets. I should like to see the women. In the language of Captain Peary, "Let them produce the Esquimaux." The women are not complaining, but these gentlemen are. If they are commissioned by any particular member of the fair sex to make this charge, let them give the name of the one in whose defense they are wielding their chivalrous pens. Otherwise we must conclude that their fair damsels exist only in their imaginations.

My name is Walter Lafferty, and I want all my friends to call me by that name henceforth. My parents gave me the name Abraham Walter Lafferty. No one ever called me "Abraham," except Judge McGinn, who has a fad for calling every one by his first name. At home and in school I always went by the name of Walter Lafferty. It is the only name that sounds good to me, when applied to myself, and is the only one that makes me feel at home. I have always signed my name "A. W. Lafferty," and in order that new acquaintances may know the first name that I go by I now carry it on my letter-heads as "A. W. (Walter Lafferty. I may later drop the "A. W." altogether and simply sign it "Walter." I reserve the right to keep on working on my name till I get it down to suit my own taste.

A. W. (WALTER) LAFFERTY.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR WILSON.

Eastern Oregon Writer Looks Upon Him As Presidential Timber.

PENDLETON, Or., May 9.—(To the Editor.)—As a citizen of the state, I desire to congratulate the people upon their determination to make the approaching reception of Woodrow Wilson non-partisan in character, and I crave the courtesy of The Oregonian's columns to pay a personal tribute to this scholar, publicist and statesman. I am a Republican. He is a Democrat. Yet I am impressed that he is the most imposing figure in American official life today, and more nearly reflective of the sentiment and purposes of the great middle class of the Nation than any man who has appeared upon the political stage in the last quarter century. He is not a doctrinaire like Bryan, nor an opportunist like Roosevelt, but, combining a marvellous grasp of the science of government with practical knowledge of human nature, he is able to achieve, to reduce to concrete legislation, the abstract theories of the average man and to accomplish such results without attendant commercial panic or popular alarm.

He is a progressive. If in Congress he would probably be denominated an insurgent. Yet he is not an extremist, and never a radical. He has reached the firesides of the Republic, where important questions are finally setted, as has no other public man since Lincoln. If the Presidential election were to be held today, and Governor Wilson were a candidate, he would probably defeat any man who might oppose him.

The party harness hangs loosely in these days. There is no striking issue which divides men into parties. The people are concerned over moral, civic and economic questions, and above all else are desirous of finding some practical method of divorcing business from politics without destroying the industrial fabric of the Nation. Most thinking men are progressive, but they know that permanent progress is of slow development, hence they are conservative progressives. Of this class Woodrow Wilson is becoming the recognized leader.

Only a few months ago this man stepped from the presidency of cloistered Princeton to the Governorship of the State of New Jersey, the mother of corporations, the nurse of trusts, the pocket borough of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the home of the High Priests of Political Big Business. When nominated the Nation viewed him as the choice and representative of wealth, as the scholar in politics, who was to be groomed as the Presidential candidate of the interests. Yet his first announcement as a candidate was to align himself with the independent element of his party, and his first act as Governor was to crush the bipartisan political machine of his state in the successful espousal of the cause of popular nomination of Senators.

He has not yet been in office a half-year, yet he has routed the bosses of his state and, even with a divided legislature, one branch thereof Democratic and the other Republican, he has secured the enactment of such advanced legislation as other states have required years to attain, and has placed reactionary New Jersey in the very van of the popular conflict.

Among the new statutes of that state which bear the Wilson impress may be noted a comprehensive measure regulating public service corporations, a thorough-going corrupt practices act, a primary election law, wise enactments covering employers' liability and workingmen's compensation, together with administrative reform of both the school and penal systems of the state. From the man who could accomplish all this as governor of New Jersey in four months, the public would have reason to expect much in four years as chief executive of the nation.

Governor Wilson may never be President. The people do not yet nominate Presidential candidates. But he proclaims a message broader than the tenets of any party, and it is meet that he should be greeted, not as a partisan, but as a citizen.

STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

MORAL SHEPHERD VIEW OF WAR.

Dr. Wise Writes About It and the Peace Propaganda.

PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor.)—You call me a "Moral Shepherd." You know that Miss Watson's Jim told Huck if any of his own race called him "Polly voo francay" he would "bust him over the head." As a Caucasian and a citizen of America I resent your insipid insult, and deny the implied softness. If you think you can annoy me with soft bleats of that nature you will find an intensification of the 15 pounds to the square inch that habitually presses the top of your head. On sober second thought I do not know what a moral shepherd is, but it sounds like something related to a jellyfish. The time is passing, my dear sheep, when the men who "seek peace and pursue it" can be accused of ingrained timidity. If you editors had the nerve to talk out there would be less shouting for war and more real courage. During the late war with Spain, and during the rambles I have made through history with favorite authors, I find that the leaders of men, who have embroiled them in wars, have encouraged most cowardly methods. They would not fight an enemy, as a rule, unless they outnumbered him, nor would they attack a position until they had beaten it to pieces first with long-distance artillery. You know that the science of war is to get behind the other fellow, and after he is disorganized by your ambuscades, to murder him at your convenience and with perfect safety. I do not speak of rare instance but of the rule.

When I spoke in favor of President Taft's arrangement with Great Britain, I did not suppose for a moment that an enlightened newspaper would suppose it was the result of fear, no matter how much Mauser bullets annoy me. I know that most editors are not afraid of bullets and prefer them to reason, but was deluded into believing that they, as a class, favored enlightenment and were not opposed to the plain progress of civilization. The only part of war I have ever come into personal contact with was the death from Typhoid Fever of scores of young men at Chicamauga. You doubtless recall the sappy bravado of the press at that time, which turned into a putrid whining after scandal when the thing went wrong. There must have been something wrong with the waste of energy that compelled such extravagance of treasure and life in that instance. The Peace Propaganda is seeking the error in the minds of nations that expose citizens to such calamities and our honored President thinks he has found a preventive for many ills of like nature in a working agreement with a powerful kindred nation. Your philosophy of the boys in the apple tree is striking, and, I must admit, convincing of the perverseness which leads men to suppose that nations should treat each other as fussy children. You know, of course, that our present relation with Great Britain is of such a nature that we are practically committed to peace, since we have agreed that our enormous common boundary of the Great Lakes and the Canadian line shall be utterly destitute of warlike preparations. You are probably aware that treaties do not prevent war but avoid them as long as both parties abide by their contract.

Your quotation "Trust in God and keep your powder dry" is as much out of date as your philosophy, because modern arms have waterproof cartridges, and according to the more advanced theologies the deity does not take the interest in military affairs he used to. Napoleon knew that latter fact and you can find it by turning to your well-used book of handy platitudes. War is not irreligious, not un-Christian or un-Jewish, but it is uncivilized, and should be the resort of the oppressed and the defense of civilization against barbarity, not the argument of cultured nations.

My dear sheep, you are trailing behind and I must send my dog to nip your hocks and get you up with the bellwether, so that you can be within reach of the "Moral Shepherd." While I resent your pallid insinuation, I remain convinced of the fact that you are still to be had for progress and peace.

JONAH B. WISE.

The Oregonian is quite unable to understand the point of this communication, if there is a point. All we can make out is that the excellent rabbi objects to be called a "moral shepherd." We didn't; we didn't. We merely said that he "took the moral shepherd's views." There is a difference, though there would be nothing to get excited about even if we had called him outright and without making any bones about it a "moral shepherd." Dr. Eliot and Dr. J. R. Wilson were placed in the same offensive list, but they have meekly submitted. But not Dr. Wise. No, sir. He lets us know what he thinks about it with all the justifiable indignation displayed by the good woman who had been called a parallelogram.

Mutual Inventory of Pockets.

New York Evening Telegram.

A gentleman never snatches his trousers away from his wife when he discovers her going through his pockets. He only hopes she will leave him enough with which to go down town in the morning. He is perfectly welcome to go through her purse any time and help himself to anything he can find. That is what married life means. A man should not allow his feelings to be hurt when his wife runs across loose change or a roll in his pockets; he ought to play the game and take such little conjugal pastimes for granted.

Laws in Canada.

SUBLIMITY, Or., May 8.—(To the Editor.)—If a man dies in Saskatchewan, Canada, leaving brothers of half blood and of the whole blood are they all heirs by law or only those of the whole blood? S. O.

The Oregonian will not undertake to answer legal questions arising in foreign countries.

Yes.

PORTLAND, May 9.—(To the Editor.)—Had Mr. Montag received the majority of Republican votes at the primary, would he have been the Republican nominee for Councilman of the Sixth Ward at the June election? A SUBSCRIBER.

Yes, unless he declined to accept the nomination.

No.

PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor.)—If I have money left me by an uncle which I am to receive at the death of my aunt, and I never receive the money, would it be legal for me to make a will for my wife to receive it at my death? A SUBSCRIBER.

One cannot will expectancies.

Child Labor Law.

RICKREALL, Or., May 7.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a child labor law in Oregon, and does it prohibit children under 14 years from working in hopyards in the country? A SUBSCRIBER.

There is a child labor law in Oregon but it does not apply to farm work.

Highest Office Building.

DALLAS, May 8.—(To the Editor.)—What is the highest building in the United States? J. D. S.

Metropolitan Life building, New York City.

Advertising Talks

By William C. Freeman.

Tradition has filled more advertising graveyards than anything else.

Look around you and you will see this for yourself.

Take the firms in your community that have followed **custom** for years—that **haven't changed** their methods—**are they progressing?**

Inquire as to the amount of business they do and you will find they are doing less, if anything, than they did 10 years ago.

Compare these firms with firms who have changed their methods to conform with the times—have you noticed their progress?

Time was when advertising ran only occasionally and consisted merely of the name and address of the firm, with possibly a mention of the merchandise for sale and the prices at which it was to be sold.

But the merchant who follows this style of advertising in these days will not meet with much success.

The advertising copy of today must be something more than a mere price list to bring results.

It must have **human interest.** It must tell a running story every day about the merchandise that is offered—why it is good merchandise—why it is worth the prices asked for it—and it must be **truthful.**

Advertising copy of this nature **will bring business to any firm**—if it is done **persistently** and **consistently.**

This is true of every community—it applies to Houston, Tex., as well as New York.

Get out of the rut, Mr. Merchant—you who have followed custom just because it was custom. Shake off the shackles of **"tradition"** and you will progress in the right direction.

(To be continued.)

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

(Copyright, 1911, by George Matthew Adams.)

The "good story teller" seems to be passing away; people seem better satisfied with the almanacs here lately.

The old-fashioned way of doing things must be improved upon slowly; it takes thousands of years to make much of a change.

When anything in the way of gossip is said to be "all over town," it usually means that four or five people know it.

Hidden away in every breast is the instinct of a slave; the instinct to cringe before power, and bend the knee to it.

A man gives up something every year because it doesn't "agree with him." After awhile, he finds that living doesn't agree with him, and gives that up, too.

There is nothing more pitiful than an old man making a new start in life.

Every time a man picks up a baby, some woman present screams: "Look out for its back!"

Usually it is necessary to ask a man twice in order to get his real opinion.

Some people always look the same, whether going to a funeral or to a wedding.

College boys do not act much worse than town people attending a picnic in the country.

The Scotch Idea in Bargaining.

London Tit Bits.

The canny Scot wandered into the pharmacy. "I'm wanting three penn'orth o' laudanum," he announced.

"What for?" asked the chemist, suspiciously.

"For two pence," responded the Scot.

Sherlock Holmes!

Will Reappear in Next

SUNDAY'S OREGONIAN

That great exponent of deduction and adventure has been revived by Sir A. Conan Doyle. The Adventure of the Devil's Foot is the first case the keen and crafty Sherlock undertakes. It is a weirdly fascinating tale in which Doyle is at his best. Renew your acquaintance with the greatest of detective characters, on page 7 of next Sunday's magazine section.

AND ANOTHER BIG FEATURE

We have secured the most vital of that great collection of Civil War photographs recently unearthed after having lain in musty vaults for half a century. Real action pictures of the contending armies in that great struggle! You will get a closer and more intimate understanding of the war from these remarkable photos. Text provided by the eminent historian, Dr. Francis Trevelan Miller.

Fiction is amply provided. Besides the Sherlock Holmes offering there are two complete short stories—both of them up to the measure of good short fiction.

Some New Self-Mades of Congress deals with men who have forged their success out of bitter struggles with early adversity.

There is a distinct local end to a recent stirring battle in Mexico. This is dealt with in an intensely interesting half page, fully illustrated.

"Tampering With Nature" recounts the achievements of Government scientists in creating hybrid plants and animals. Ever hear of the cattabu or the zebu?

Col. Crowe, Wallace Irwin's new hero, hands out some delightful satire, softened by humor, regarding our liberty-loving neighbors across the Rio Grande.

Widow Wise nearly loses her heart—and her life—in the Alpines, Sambo acquires a kingdom and Mr. Twee Deedle has a fresh adventure.

Those are just a few of the things.