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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 1911.

JUST BECAUSE.

Some of the reasons why Canada rejected reciprocity will be found to be included in the following:

Because Champ Clark made a foolish speech about annexation.

Because President Taft is not popular in Canada.

Because Canada thought reciprocity would benefit the United States more than Canada.

Because Canada feared that any manifestation of friendliness to the United States would be a demonstration of disloyalty to Great Britain.

Because reciprocity was seen to be widely popular in the United States.

Because the manufacturers of Canada believed their industries were in great peril.

Because Canada could not see how both parties to a trade bargain could profit.

Because of the purpose of a rival leader of the French element to upset Laurier.

Because political thought and action in Canada are provincial, prejudiced and all-sufficient.

Because a political reaction in Canada was about due.

Because Canada does not like us, anyway.

CHAMP CLARK'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Through the valuable assistance of Champ Clark, the Canadian Conservatives have won the elections by a decisive majority. Reciprocity is beaten. The vote was taken not so much on the question of reciprocity as on that of annexation. When the agreement was first introduced in the House at the session which ended last March, Mr. Clark allowed his enthusiasm to get the better of his judgment. He said:

> I am for it, because I hope to see the day when the American flag will float over every square foot of the British North America possessions, clear to the North Pole. They are people of our blood. They speak our language. Their institutions are much like ours. They are trained in the difficult art of self-government.
>
> My judgment is that if the treaty of 1854 had never been abrogated, the chances of a consolidation of the two countries would have been much greater than they are now.

When reminded that these remarks might give offense to the Canadians, Mr. Clark said they were "semi-jocular," but the majority of Americans failed to see the joke, although they are credited with as keen appreciation of a joke as any nation on earth. The Canadians not only failed to see the joke, but took the speech in deadly earnest, and voted "no" to its sentiments with great vehemence.

It is useless for Mr. Clark to plead in his defense that President Taft's speeches had as much effect on Canadian opinion as his own and that corruption funds sent from abroad had more effect than both combined. Those who know Canada and the Canadians know better. As it was said of the second generation of English settlers in Ireland, that they would "out-Irish the Irish," it may be said of the Canadians that they "out-British the British" in loyalty to the flag. Though Mr. Clark proved his sympathy with reciprocity by lining up his party in its support, despite the fact that by doing so he gave aid to a political enemy, he dealt it a most deadly blow by the bare mention of annexation. Every loyal Briton in Canada would no sooner read that speech than he would interpret reciprocity as a first step towards annexation, sing "God save the King" and "Rule, Britannia," and vote the Conservative ticket.

There are three principal elements in Canada—the descendants of early English and Scotch settlers, many of whom migrated from south of the border rather than join in the revolution or forswear allegiance to King George III; the French, who are contented and loyal so long as their peculiar customs and privileges are left untouched; and the recent immigrants, who are almost all English and Scotch and many of whom have chosen Canada in preference to the United States through loyalty to the British flag. They believe they have the best government on earth and are proud of being subjects of the greatest empire in the world. They regard a "Yankee," as they call all Americans, with contempt and suspicion and our National policy in regard to Canada is looked upon also with the feeling which a small nation always has towards a big neighbor.

The feeling of ultra-British loyalty caused Laurier to abandon the traditional Liberal policy of free trade when he attained power in 1896 and pass the British preferential tariff.

Laurier's change of policy made the contest between parties a struggle to outdo each other in cultivating both the national and pro-British sentiments of the people. Borden was waiting for Laurier to give him an opening that he might accuse Laurier of being false to Canada as a nation and to the empire. Reciprocity offered him the opening, for it gave him an excuse to say that Laurier was turning aside from England to seek closer alliance with the United States. Champ Clark's speech was his best campaign material. It appeared to justify him in saying that reciprocity was but a preliminary to annexation, and he used it without stint.

The result shows how this appeal to sentiment, passion and the vague fear of annexation worked upon the Canadian people. They were deaf to all the reassuring speeches of President Taft and Secretary Knox about annexation and they rallied to the banner of Canadian nationalism and the close British connection. Mr. Clark might have known that the least hint at annexation at any stage of the negotiations or debate on reciprocity would act violently on Canadian public opinion. Borden and his Tories, with a fifteen-year hunger for office, were waiting for just such a campaign cry. It is a sad thing when a man like Mr. Clark is so enamored of his powers as an orator that he does not know when not to exercise them.

The defeat of Canadian reciprocity means that the opportunity is lost for many years to come. The difficulty has always been to find both countries in the mood to make a treaty at the same time. From 1854 to 1866 we had free trade in many natural products, but in the latter year the treaty was annulled by the United States. Canada was willing to make a new treaty any time in the ensuing thirty years and at one time a lively agitation to that end was kept up in this country, but the standpat element was supreme and was deaf to the pleadings of Blaine and McKinley to cultivate the foreign market. Weary of waiting, Canada sought an outlet in British preferential trade. It seemed that the happy conjunction of such men as Taft and Laurier would bring about the long-desired end, but the Canadians say they will have none of it. The imaginary line which constitutes the boundary must remain a real barrier.

AN OPPORTUNITY.

The Medford traffic bureau (a newspaper creation) appears to think it ought to fry the fat out of the Portland hog. To be sure, the traffic bureau (if there is a traffic bureau) is not on record as using such an unpleasant epithet; but the phrase is quite common in Medford newspaper parlance when the rate situation is discussed. We suspect therefore that the traffic bureau entertains like sentiments toward the Portland commercial interests that are thought there to be feeding well at the transportation trough. The traffic bureau seems to be imbued with the idea that it has a mission to perform in disciplining and rebuking effectively sectional selfishness, commercial exclusiveness and metropolitan aggrandizement.

We do not object to any fair or rational presentation of the Medford contention. Fixing rates through the initiative upon the basis of the Medford complaint is, however, absurd and unthinkable. The state will take the same view unquestionably when the time comes—if it comes.

But we would not have the energies of that traffic bureau wasted, nor its sympathies with any neglected and injured community in Oregon ignored. There is a field wherein the traffic bureau can do noble work. It is in Curry County. Let the Medford traffic bureau make a visit there en masse and discover the desolation and stagnation wrought upon a worthy and industrious people through the operation of a selfish and ruinous law prohibiting fishing in the Rogue River "except with hook and line, commonly called angling." (See initiative law No. 348-349, enacted 1910). It was proposed solely in the interest of one element of the population of one part of Oregon and enacted largely as a result of their ceaseless agitation. It has done incalculable harm to Curry County and has been of little benefit to Jackson, Josephine or Douglas.

The Medford traffic bureau has a great opportunity to right a wrong, revive an important industry and give employment to many deserving people by devising a reasonable measure for regulation of fishing on the Rogue River that will be fair to the lower river and the upper river.

EVOLUTION OF A POLITICIAN.

The evolution of Woodrow Wilson from a college professor's opposition to the initiative and referendum into a politician's advocacy of popular legislation is being traced in its usual joyful style by the New York Sun. The Sun has been looking up the record, following that Governors' meeting when the Governor of New Jersey had a lively tilt with the Governor of Alabama over modern Democratic doctrine. Governor O'Neal was against the initiative and the recall and Governor Wilson, being now a Democrat with a little d, was for the initiative and for the recall—for administration offices. All of which, being brought to the notice of the Sun, caused that knowing journal to produce a paragraph from a speech by the New Jersey apostle of popular reform before the City Club at Philadelphia, November 18, 1909, wherein he spoke slightingly of the primary, the initiative and the recall as follows:

> Our attacks upon the machine are for the most part futile, because they ordinarily take the form of still further elaboration of process. We invent some new form of primary, we introduce the practice of "initiative and referendum," we create the privilege of "recall," and before we are through we have given the voters so many things to do that they need the assistance of professional advisers in doing them, and can easily be outwitted by those very advisers in the very processes which were meant to free them from control.

Soon the professor became a Governor and then he had the inestimable privilege of a call from our own Mr. U'Ren—a visit that was rich in results for Wilson and U'Ren, for the Governor then and there saw what a great sinner against the people he had been and the Oregon lawgiver later had the pleasure of entertaining his ready pupil in Oregon. Having now seen the light through the eyes of a real politician and candidate for the Presidency, Governor Wilson made confession of his previous grave errors as a college professor, occupying the chair of political economy and government, for on April 29, 1911, he told the Pewter Platter Club at Norfolk, Va.:

> For twenty years I preached to the students of Princeton that the referendum and recall was bosh. I have since investigated and I want to apologize to those students. It is the safeguard of politics. It takes power from the bosses and places it in the hands of the people. I want to say with all my power that I favor it.

Being headed now exactly right, Governor Wilson came directly to Oregon to return the call of Mr. U'Ren and to see a few others. Somehow he escaped while here the magic U'Ren influence for he began to hedge and dodge and palter about the recall, saying in Portland in May, 1911, relative to the recall of Judges:

> I do not approve of it, on the theory that one of the greatest dangers with which we are beset in our efforts to secure better government is impatience. We are prone to use too much haste, to take too many short cuts. I admit that, logically, it is unanswerable that if we elect judges we have the right to recall them, but I don't care a peppercorn for logic.

Nor consistency. Though perhaps consistency is not worth a peppercorn. But why did not Mr. U'Ren, who is the great mentor of the New Jersey novitiate and the guardian angel of the Wilson movement in Oregon, stand around where Dr. Wilson could note and remember while the orator was on the platform? Then the Governor might never have slipped the recall leash.

JUDGE GROSSCUP UNDER FIRE.

Judge Grosscup is the victim of circumstantial evidence. When a Judge has been called upon to decide a number of a certain class of cases and the trend of his decisions has been uniformly in one direction, the public is to be excused for believing that he has a bias in that direction.

Judge Grosscup has been called upon to decide a large number of important cases in which the interests of large corporations and the people were in conflict. His decisions have almost always been in favor of the corporations. How can people help believing that he is biased in that direction? All the facts tend to confirm the suspicion. Judge Grosscup may honestly believe that he has been impartial, according to his lights. The trouble with him is that his lights are dim. His legal training and practice had led him to give the first place in the order of importance to property, though the Declaration of Independence puts life first. That is the criticism to be made on too many Judges and they can only silence it by having their mental vision corrected.

Judge Grosscup denies that Wall street knew his Standard Oil decision twenty-four hours before it was rendered. Perhaps not, but it knew the general trend of his decisions and, knowing that, considered it a safe bet that he would decide in favor of the Standard. When one is familiar with the workings of a man's mind, one can forecast his actions in a certain contingency with reasonable accuracy. In that sense Wall street knew.

SHALL THE OREGON LEAD?

A copy of a letter which we have received from A. W. Neale seems to indicate that he is much disturbed at the thought of the battleship Oregon leading the procession through the Panama Canal on the day of its opening. The original of the letter is to go to the Secretary of the Navy, we apprehend. We cannot for our part think of any more harmless and innocent employment for a battleship than to lead a peaceful procession. The prophet tells with joy of a time when swords shall be beaten into plowshares. He sees nothing wrong in making an agricultural use of the iron which has once been devoted to slaughter. How then can it possibly be wrong to consecrate a battleship to the opening of the canal? It would be one of the most signal triumphs ever beheld of the spirit of peace over the fiend of combat.

Happy indeed would it be for the world if all the battleships of all the nations were used for heading processions and nothing else. There is singular propriety in choosing the Oregon for this purpose inasmuch as it once made the perilous trip around the Horn at unrivaled speed. Why not permit it to be the first vessel to experience a trip through the canal?

Mr. Neale goes on to quote from Bernard Shaw some observations about the slowness of our progress in everything but the military art. "In the arts of life man invents nothing, but in the arts of death he outdoes Nature herself. The peasant of today eats and drinks the same things as the peasant of 10,000 years ago. The house he lives in has not altered much in a thousand centuries," and so on.

This sort of raving is easy enough, but it is obviously inendacious. Man is continuously improving the arts of life. To show that he is not Shaw has to decry everything that we use in the modern world. It is a simple trick to begin by denying that inventions are of any use and then proceed to rail because we have made no useful inventions, but it is also profitless. The peasant of today neither eats nor drinks the same things as the peasant of 10,000 years ago. His diet has altered in almost every particular. Potatoes, tea, peaches, apples, are but a few of the articles which have been added to it within 2000 or 3000 years. Nor are houses today built as they were "a thousand centuries ago," or even 2000 or 4000 years ago. The change has been complete.

Shaw can talk brilliantly about these subjects, because he has the gift of gab combined with colossal ignorance, but an intelligent American citizen ought to know better than to take his rattle at its face value.

THE TAKING OF THE PASS.

The Oregon Press Association has been in session in this city for the past two days. Truth to tell, there was not a very large number of members of the press in attendance, for the mainstay of such meetings, the country editor, was conspicuous by his absence. We use the term country editor in the sense of esteem and honor, for if there is any one person on earth who is deserving the praise of his fellowmen it is the country editor.

We speak now of this great man in the concrete, not as an individual, for there are so-called country editors who are not worthy to fill the high positions they occupy, men who are in the business as a business, as a means of making money (usually to fail), or to gain some selfish end. The real country editor—the man who has done more for this country than any other, the man who has formed public opinion, elected Presidents, made and unmade reputations and fortunes without end—held his position because he loved the work and was fitted for it. If he was not fitted for it he did not long survive. He loved the click of the type, for he was a handy man at the case, more than likely a skilled compositor. As a rule he could take a couple of fonts of gothic type, a worn-out press, some home-made ink, a few sheets of coarse paper and turn out a job that would put some of the learned compositors of today to shame.

He could produce a sheet on his old Washington handpress that was a marvel of neatness, accuracy and clean printing. He could, and did, make his own rollers, do a fairly good job of binding, ruling or engraving. You would find half of his wood letters with a letter cut on the obverse end of the block. He never ran completely "out of sorts," for he was ready with jackknife and file to meet any emergency. He could not buy brass rule, but he could make it if he could find a sheet of worn-out zinc taken from under some set-aside stove, and there were always plenty of "leads" if there was an old tin pail or milk pan to draw upon.

In a mechanical way the country editor—or are we speaking now of the country editor of the old school?—well, the editor of the old school was a genius, and he is by no means extinct. There are many of him right here in Oregon. May his tribe increase! May he multiply, for, after all, the great strength and power of the country editor lay—still lies—in his numbers. There are so many of him! His issue is only perhaps six or eight quires, perhaps an average of say twenty tokens (some of the so-called editors may not even know how many a token is); but he issued fifty-two times a year, and his ten thousand associates were doing the same thing. He was right close down to the people, with his ear to the ground. He caught every change in public sentiment before, long before, it reached the great papers of the city. If in his mind change was proper he fostered it; if he thought it not proper, he thwarted it. It was his duty to mould public thought, but he first got his ideas from the oracle on the store box or the philosopher on his cobbler's bench.

There are not many of him in Portland today. There were not yesterday; and why? Do you ask that as a question to be answered? Well, what was it that made, after all was said and done, the country editor a man apart, a man equaling the high and mighty, a man envied of all? The railway pass! The little piece of pasteboard that came to him regularly every three months permitting him to travel free over the railway (and if more than one road came near him he had passes on them all).

Now his pass is gone. An unfeeling Congress took it away from him, reduced him in rank, placed him on the same basis as the banker, the merchant and the manufacturer—on the same basis with his readers! For this base act all must suffer. Very, very soon the country editor, as we know him and love and esteem him, will pass away, for he can no longer go junketing around to get the feeling and note the beating of the public pulse. He has been sentenced to remain at home; for surely no self-respecting country editor would sink so low as to pay railroad fare.

Hence the editorial meeting was not largely attended. No such meeting will be until different alignments are made, until the newer members of the craft get used to the new ways. Time will come, no doubt, when those who conduct our country papers will see the benefits of such metings and attend as a means of furthering their business. But the old editorial meetings and editorial junkets will pass with the old-time country editors—will pass with the taking of the pass.

William Hanley's plan practically to spread the Agricultural College all over the state by the planting of students on demonstration farms in the Summer looks practical in the interest of good farming. Let the students load up with book and laboratory and classroom knowledge in the Winter and go out into the state and apply it on demonstration farms in the Summer. Then let the farmers of the neighboring country visit the demonstration farm, learn how to farm scientifically and apply the knowledge themselves. The best advertisement for Oregon is successful farmers. Rich soil is not enough, its richness must be transmuted by skilled farming into good crops.

The East is hopelessly colonial. Not only is it barren of ideas in politics, but it cannot even contrive an original architecture. It has to go to France and England for the plans of its houses. The Long Island millionaire who is going to tear down Tattersall Castle, bring over the stones and reconstruct the building just as it stood in England is typical of his kind. The more servilely he can imitate the better he is satisfied.

It is not likely that Mr. Justice Hughes will ever be nominated for President. When he entered the Supreme Court he probably laid aside all his political ambitious and will not wish to resume them. We suppose he might have been President if he had taken the tide of his political prestige at the flood, but he did not, and now it has ebbed too far to lead him on to fortune.

The providing of dredges to deepen the channel of the Willamette and Columbia rivers is necessary to accommodate the deeper draft vessels which yearly come to this port. The action of the Port of Portland Commission in this regard is to be commended.

There is something pathetic in the dilemma of a man of 70, who cannot remarry because the interval since divorce is two weeks short of the necessary six months. It is the beginning of the bad luck that follows postponement of the ceremony.

The electric line up the Lewis River will bring another rich section into touch with Portland. With such lines radiating into the country in all directions, the back-to-the-farm movement ought to seize hold of the idle rich and idle poor of the city.

The thief who can steal ninety chickens and get away with them without disturbing the owner will not be caught. Such work must be classed with fine arts and hypnotism.

The number of students excluded from the University of Washington is an index to the high standard of those admitted. A university should aim at quality rather than numbers.

The place for the Municipal Labor Bureau is in the City Hall, not in tents. Winter is coming and Portland does not want an official pneumonia bureau.

There is enough sugar in sight for world's requirements for a year, so the rise in price of 20 cents a hundred yesterday is just another squeeze.

James J. Hill will drive the last spike in the Oregon Trunk. Mr. Hill has been much of a driver of spikes in the past fifty years.

The girl who received a $20,000 estate because her name is Jane can now change it to anything from Jennie to Jeanette.

The little county fair, with neighbors in friendly rivalry, is as good for the country as the big shows.

When Pat Crowe got religion, it didn't take or he would not indulge in "strong-arm" flirtation.

Defeat of reciprocity will not affect marrying across the border.

Charge it to the account of Champ Clark.

MILITANT METHODS DEFENDED.

Washington Woman Suffragist Tells What Was Fight.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I thoroughly agree with Governor Shafroth, of Colorado, in his declaration that the Governors of Utah, Idaho and Washington "did not know what they were talking about when they condemned the methods of militant suffragists." Those three gentlemen evidently share the lamentable ignorance of the term "militant suffragist" that is deplorably prevalent throughout the United States, which has been caused by garbled or untrue English newspaper accounts of the militant movement in England.

"Coercion and force" are no more analagous to suffrage militancy than to church militancy, to those having any knowledge whatever of real suffrage militancy. As a matter of fact, all American suffragists concede to the Pankhursts and their co-workers most of the credit for the marvelous growth of the suffrage movement in our country within the last four or five years.

If Governor Hay, of Washington, really approves of and believes in equal suffrage, and desires its adoption throughout the United States, he will not criticise the methods adopted by Washington suffragists, as he surely does when he attacks militant methods.

Most of the suffragists in the Washington campaigns used so-called militant methods. Mrs. Hutton's Political Equality League in Eastern Washington, and the Washington Alki Suffrage Club in Western Washington, the two largest organizations in the state, were both known as militant, and usually so designated.

The warfare we waged against ignorance and prejudice and corrupt opposition was aggressive, constant and persistent. We used not bullets, however, but arguments; publicity and advertising were our guns, and political maneuvering our tactics.

However, as Governor Hay was at no time identified with the suffrage campaign in Washington, and in no way aided us, his ignorance of the methods adopted by us is perhaps excusable, though deplorable when thus publicly displayed. So much misinformation has been disseminated concerning the Washington campaign, so many false, distorted and ridiculous accounts have been published of the way suffrage was won in Washington that outraged truth demands justice.

The real story is soon to be written by those who know the facts. Our methods were certainly militant, according to the definition of militancy recognized among suffragists, and the two-to-one majority in favor proved the effectiveness of those methods, despite Governor Hay's criticism.

California suffragists have adopted our methods, at our advice, and are going to win. By the real militant methods adopted by American suffragists, National suffrage is to be accomplished in less than half the fifty years prescribed by Governor Hawley and concurred in by Governor Spry and Governor Hay.

We expect criticism from anti-suffragists, and bear it with fortitude, but we resent condemnation from those who claim to be our friends, yet damn us with faint praise. The Governors of Idaho and Utah may be excused on the score of ignorance of the methods so recently used in Washington, but militant suffragists who won the campaign in Washington will not accept such a plea from Governor Hay.

MRS. GEORGE A. SMITH.

SPECIAL SESSION IS OPPOSED

Mr. Morton Gives Several Reasons Why He Deems It Ill-Advised.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Sept. 21.—(To the Editor.)—There appears to be quite an agitation at this time as to the calling of a special session of the Legislature, more particularly for the purpose of enacting good roads legislation.

Let us make some investigations along this line: It has been about seven months since the Oregon Legislature adjourned, having passed some good roads bills and that, too, after a bitter and acrimonious fight among the legislators. Have we any assurance that there would not be a bitter contest at this time over this subject when we consider that the same body of men are to be called on to act on the same subject? Have we any certain knowledge that a majority of these men have changed their views and will agree or that they do agree before being called in special session? Would it not seem a little presumptous for the Governor to call the members of the Legislature in special session to act on matters vetoed by him only last February?

There are many questions entering into this matter of good roads legislation. How many counties are there in this state that desire to bond for the purpose of building good roads? Not many, I believe.

The matter of bonding a county heavily is a serious thing to do and should not be done except in cases of great emergency, such as suppressing an insurrection or repelling an invasion, or matters of that character.

Let us remember that if a county is heavily bonded, say for $500,000 or $1,000,000, and this money is put into the hands of three men to spend, two of them a majority in saying where it shall be spent, there is grave danger of a great waste being inaugurated in its expenditure.

Three men with a barrel of money to spend; three men with the county by the throat calling on taxpayers to "caugh up" to the tune of a million or more! Does this look good to you, Mr. Taxpayer? Will we ever learn that we cannot tax ourselves rich?

I am in favor of good roads, as I believe all other fair-minded men are in favor of better highways, but I am not in favor of good roads at a maximum cost.

Our good roads should be constructed at the least possible expense to the taxpayer and all money appropriated for such purposes should be properly safeguarded in every form.

I believe the majority of the counties of this state are able to construct their own roads without bonding themselves individually or collectively, now or at any other time.

Speaking for myself as a resident and taxpayer of this state, I am opposed to the calling of a special session of the Legislature at present and thereby allow the subject to come up in due course at the next regular session.

J. W. MORTON.

Governor George L. Curry.

PORTLAND, Sept. 22.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian recently under the caption of "Fifty Years Ago Today" Governor Curry is referred to as being the Governor of Oregon. In a map I have which contains portraits of all the Governors from Whiteaker to Chamberlain I do not find said Curry's, but Whiteaker is mentioned as the Governor 50 years ago today and he is succeeded by Addison C. Gibbs. Where and how did Curry come in? He had a county named after him and besides that a street here. H. L. SMITH.

Governor Curry was the fifth territorial Governor of Oregon (1854-1858.)

Paris Professional Dinner Tasters.

London Tit-Bits.

Paris has a corps of professional dinner tasters, whose function it is to test and pass judgment upon all food prepared for banquets and similar occasions of state. When they "O. K." a dish it may be set before a king.

IS MURDER TRADE TO FLOURISH?

If Webb Case Called for Mercy, What of Others? Asks Writer.

PORTLAND, Sept. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Many seem to see a meritorious act in the commutation of Webb's sentence. Such persons would have us believe that "humanity" means tenderness, well wishing, disposed to do good. But human beings have other feelings more important than those. A feeling of the first magnitude is the desire for protection from plunder and murder. Many love an idea in the abstract, but get quickly over it when they themselves are the victims of its materialization.

Webb and his paramour, Mrs. Carrie Kersh, abandoned their homes and forsook their marital responsibilities to become denizens of the underworld. Mrs. Kersh had a room over a saloon and made men's acquaintance in the hallway as they passed to and from the bar. Webb was a frequenter of bars and an observer of men with money. To use his own expression, when one displayed much money, he was "fat." He was contented to have his paramour consort with Johnson while he kept out of sight and thought out the murder scheme. While Webb plied the victim with the bottle, his paramour went in search of chloroform and a trunk. No time was lost. What of a human life when it stood in the way of $2000? With brutal haste they battered and crushed and stuffed Johnson in the trunk, dead, and had the trunk taken to the depot for shipment. The pair of vampires, well pleased with their success, went joy-riding, flashing their victim's coin to command attention and make a sensation and rioted in a drunken revelry.

How many more deserving of grace than Webb and Kersh has the State of Oregon hung? Will the state hang no more murderers? If the state has and will continue to hang persons more deserving of mercy than these, why this partiality for Webb and Kersh? There are many duties far from pleasant. The hangman, no doubt, finds it an unpleasant duty to adjust the noose. That would not relieve him of his duty. If it hurt his conscience he should have thought of that before accepting the office. Tears of the widow and the fatherless never cease. Hearts are ever breaking, but the works of Providence and of nature go on regardless. If our Governor could not find it in his heart to permit Webb to suffer under the law, he never can consistantly permit anyone to hang while he is Governor. There never will be a case more deserving of the hangman's art and there always will be some mother, some wife, daughter or other relative broken hearted to plead for mercy.

If the way of the transgressor is to be made pleasant and the wages of sin to be an easy life; if murderers are to be made heroes, their necks never in danger, but be petted and fought over and become the object of much admiration from the fair sex, it stands to reason the trade of murder must flourish and their breed multiply. It would appear to be the logic of our Governor that it is preferable for widows and orphans to lament and to be heartbroken over the murder of husbands and parents for plunder than that the family or relatives of murderers should have cause to grieve. That is the way it looks to me anyway.

What is the use of trying a person for murder in the first degree if the findings of the jury and the court are to be set aside? We also hear so much nowadays about the law being enforced and yet so many persons, good souls that they are, cannot bear to see the law of their own state enforced. No doubt this expression of opinion will cause many to call me a blood-thirsty scoundrel. DONALD ALLISON,
771 Alberta street.

Measuring Star Distances.

DUFUR, Or., Sept. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Could you please publish in The Oregonian how astronomers measure distances to the moon and stars?

C. E. COLLINS.

It is done by taking the parallax of the object. This is the angle at the vertex of a triangle whose base is the earth's diameter or the major diameter of the earth's orbit and whose apex is the star in question. When this is known we have the base and one angle of a right angled triangle. The perpendicular distance can then be computed. There are other methods also used more difficult to understand. The parallax would always be sufficient if it were always measurable, but for the fixed stars it is often too minute to be detected by the most accurate observations.

Brooks' Comet in Sight.

LINNTON, Or., Sept. 18.—(To the Editor.)—In an article in The Oregonian today there is the headline, "Sky Search Futile." The statement is made that Brooks' comet has not yet been seen by anyone in Portland. With the aid of an operaglass it has been visible here any night during the past two weeks, when the clouds had drifted by. Tonight at 8 o'clock the north star, the comet and the star on the outter end of the handle of the big dipper form practically a right-angled triangle, the comet being in the angle, almost due west of the north star. While visible to the unaided eye, its appearance is that of a rather dim star. It shows no tail of light either with or without the aid of a glass, and is not likely to be recognized until a glass is used; it is then readily discernible from its nebulous or hazy appearance. E. C. M'DOWELL.

Buyers of Coins.

MADRAS, Or., Sept. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me of the name and address of a reliable firm or party who buys old coins. I have some old coins that belong to Europe, Asia and South America. SUBSCRIBER.

Try Scott Stamp & Coin Company, New York.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

(Copyright, 1911, by George Matthew Adams)

A woman who claims that strange men try to flirt with her will sue a man for breach of promise, if given half a chance.

Every time a story is circulated that a man has whipped his wife, the women say, "Oh, I'd like to see a man strike me just once!"

The sweet gets out of so many things as you get older.

Are you as careful as you should be about bothering other people? A great many men willing to work are greatly annoyed by idlers.

Ever know a man so mean you was not willing he should admire you?

In one of the theatrical lithographs now in the windows, a contrite man is shown on his knees, taking an oath. "By the memory of my sainted mother," he says, "I will never drink again." A saloonkeeper looking on is so mad that green smoke emerges from his nostrils.

The smaller the town, the more its leading citizen struts.

Every shiftless man is a liar; he acquired the habit in giving excuses.

After a man has been employed in the postoffice three or four years, he thinks he is the Government

FOOLISH SNEER AT THE OREGON

This Writer Objects to Battleship at Panama Canal.

The Oregonian has received the following letter, with the statement that it is a copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of the Navy:

"Dear Sir—By the inclosed cutting from The Oregonian this date it is stated that the Navy Department wishes to test public opinion in regard to the battleship Oregon leading the procession through the Panama Canal.

"To be frank about the matter, I, for one, am heartily in disfavor of a grim, murderous battleship leading the procession. In the new cycle that we are entering a battleship will be an object of derision, irrefutable evidence of the base uses we made of our time, energy and substance in this passing barbaric age. In the new age, instead of building hideous vessels to fight imaginary foes, we will bend our energies toward conquering the real foes of mankind, ignorance, disease, poverty, vice, superstition.

"I write these sentiments to satisfy you that the unwholesome clamor for a warship is not entirely unanimous; that there is at least one dissenting bass voice. Where is the need of a battleship on a 'pacific' ocean? However, if there must be a battleship in the procession, let it be placed at the end of the procession, where it will pass by after the tumult and the shouting has died. It has been suggested that a white dove and Mr. T. R. Roosevelt lead the procession.

"A brief passage from G. B. Shaw's 'Man and Superman,' quoted herewith, is a strong argument against a warship leading:

"'And is man any the less destroying himself for all this boasted brain of his? Have you walked up and down the earth lately? I have; and I have examined man's wonderful inventions, and I tell you that in the arts of life man invents nothing, but in the arts of death he outdoes Nature herself, and produces by chemistry and machinery all the slaughter of plague, pestilence and famine. The peasant today eats and drinks what was eaten and drunk by the peasant of 10,000 years ago, and the house he lives in has not altered as much in 1000 centuries as the fashion of a ladies' bonnet in a score of weeks. But when he goes out to slay he carries a marvel of mechanism that lets loose at the touch of his finger all the hidden molecular energies, and leaves the javelin, the arrow and the blowpipe of his fathers far behind.

"'In the arts of peace man is a bungler. I have seen his cotton factory and the like machinery that a greedy dog could have invented if it had wanted money instead of food. I know his clumsy typewriters and bungling locomotives, and tedious bicycles; they are toys compared to the Maxim gun, the submarine torpedo-boat. There is nothing in man's industrial machinery but his greed and sloth; his heart is in his weapons. Man measures his strength by his destructions. What is his religion? An excuse for hating me. What is his law? An excuse for hanging you. What is his morality, gentility? An excuse for consuming without producing. What are his politics? Either the worship of a despot, because a despot can kill, or parliamentary cock-fighting.'" A. W. NEALE.

Earth's Orbit and Star Composition.

DUFUR, Or., Sept. 19.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Why is the sun not in the center of the earth's orbit instead of being a little to one side? (2) Why are the orbits of the planets oblong instead of an exact circle? (3) What substances are the stars composed of?

M. J. WINSLOW.

(1) It is not. (2) Because Newton's law of gravitation makes an exact circle impossible. (3) The same as the earth in the past. There are also unknown elements.

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Arming to Fight Air Dreadnoughts—How the Government is building new style guns to cope with the development of aerial craft. A half page of interesting descriptions and pictures.

The Reading Public—A tale replete with humor written by a librarian showing the peculiar literary tastes of frequenters of public reading rooms.

Compensation—Another chapter of that interesting novel of Washington society.

The Funny Men—A half page of the latest wit and humor.

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