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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1911.

PAYING AND BORROWING.

The taxpaying public of Portland faces with dismay a proposed total levy for 1912 of 22-odd mills. It will be imposed on a total valuation of about $290,000,000 for the municipality, and will yield a revenue of about $6,800,000. It is the greatest sum ever raised for tax purposes. The tax burden grows heavier, not lighter. The ability of the property-owner to pay does not grow greater, but rather less. Several years ago we deluded ourselves into the queer notion that taxes would be easier to pay when the Utopian scheme of par valuations was adopted by our sanguine assessors. But the bars are now down, our tax resources are at their maximum, and the levy climbs higher from year to year. The public has not get over the costly notion that it can tax itself rich.

Bonds are proposed as one way out of the general dilemma. Much depends. If bonds are for improvements or projects not needed, going into debt for them is never wise. We have enough bridges, and our park system is fairly extensive. Our commercial interests did not demand public docks, but we voted bonds for them. Probably we can get along for a year or two yet without $200,000 more for the public auditorium. The tunnel under the river can wait a little while. Other conveniences, luxuries, or fancies will come in time and with judicious outlay. Why try to get them all at once?

But some municipal projects are imperatively necessary. We must have abundant water and an adequate water system. Recently we voted $3,000,000 additional bonds for that purpose and the investment was wisely made. If the methods of some of our political economists, who happen now to be in office, had been followed, we should have raised the money entirely out of current taxation. Pay as you go, they say. Don't mortgage the future. We must keep out of debt. Is the way to keep out of debt to pay out all we have, and a little more, for the benefit mainly of generations yet to come?

We must have new schoolhouses. The City of Portland has a half dozen or more schoolbuildings that are a disgrace to an enlightened community. They are a reproach to the eye, an offense to the nose, breeders of disease and repositories of filth. They ought to be razed for the protection of the schoolchildren if for no other reason. But the over-prudent School Board says they will do until the money can be had to build new buildings in their turn. A large number of new and satisfactory structures have been erected in this way and have been paid for, except the Lincoln High School, out of current funds. But meanwhile other decaying edifices are about to fall down.

The Civic Council of Portland will propose to the school meeting Friday that one-half or more of the moneys proposed to be invested in new schoolhouses be raised by bonds. It is a prudent and economical suggestion. It is fair that the heavy cost of permanent schoolbuildings be distributed through a term of years. One-half the cost of well-built schoolhouses, contributed by the present generation, is a generous contribution. It would be fair if all, or nearly all, the money for new buildings should be provided through the sale of bonds. We think the public would be willing to vote $1,000,000 in bonds for new schoolbuildings, if the taxpayers should see fit to recommend it at their annual meeting. If we vote bonds for a water system, why not for a school system?

But there is a phase of all bonding proposals that ought to have more serious and thoughtful attention. If the public is not called upon to provide money through bonds for improvements and facilities it needs, it will be solicited successfully to expend great sums through bonds for projects not actually needed. The credit resources of city and county are large and there is an irresistible disposition to employ them. If we do not vote bonds for schoolbuildings, we will vote bonds for new bridges. If we do not vote bonds for water works, we will vote bonds to buy the street railway and street lighting systems. If we do not vote bonds for a new County Courthouse, we will vote bonds for an auditorium. If we do not vote bonds for a new public library, we will vote bonds for a gigantic tunnel under the Willamette River. It is well to pay as you go; but it is not well to pay out all you can as you go, and to borrow all you can at the same time.

SITE FOR PUBLIC DOCKS.

The opinion of the eminent New York engineer who was employed by the Dock Commission that Portland should make all of its public dock calculations with due reference to floods is entitled to grave consideration. Some of the plans we have seen based on a rosy prospectus of a greater Portland evidently have not been made with as great care or wise forethought.

The most disastrous of all Willamette River floods in Portland occurred in the Winter, February, 1890. No dock should be planned which would have a tendency to confine the overwhelming freshets of Winters. In one of the views showing dock plans there is a series of docks shown near the North Pacific Lumber Company. In view of the certain flood menace a poorer site could not be selected. The proposed docks are shown protected by a breakwater which would confine the water precisely at the point where it should and must be allowed free scope. Repetition of the '90 flood with the waters restrained at this point would be serious indeed.

That the docks should be below the bridges is unquestioned. Proper railroad facilities provided at a site just below the bridges on either side of the river should fill all requirements for the export trade. For the local river trade, the city property at Jefferson street should be utilized; or almost any of the present docks can be purchased or leased at a fair consideration. The public dock situation should be handled, and apparently is being handled, with the same care, and we hope with as good results, as would accrue from the efforts of an individual investor.

THE INSURGENTS' ONLY PLANK.

Senator Clapp is in error when he says the people are beginning to lose confidence in platforms and pledges. They have been losing such confidence for many years, but the last platform in which they have lost confidence is that of the insurgents.

The faction to which Mr. Clapp belongs has shown as great agility as any party in jumping on and off its platform. A few years ago the insurgents had a platform which looked quite attractive to many people, but they have abandoned one plank after another until the only one remaining is opposition to President Taft, right or wrong. One must step carefully and keep a cool head in order to preserve one's footing on a single plank, even if it be fairly broad, and the insurgent plank is so narrow that the insurgent voters have refused to follow the leaders along it.

Every sound principle which the insurgents have put forward has been much better advocated by the President until they are reduced to the purely negative principle of opposition to him. Negation will not carry them far.

JUSTICE AND REFORM.

Governor West has found something in the state constitution that pleases him; or some kind mentor has found it for him, which is perhaps about the same thing. It is the following precious gem from article 1, section 15:

> Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice.

The Oregonian has no fault to find with that sound and humane precept. It has been in the state constitution for over fifty years, and has been observed and obeyed by a long array of conscientious and law-abiding Governors before the present incumbent. They did not abandon any of the wise and necessary principles of retributive justice to a quixotic effort at indiscriminate reformation of criminals, some hardened and confirmed and others not. They sought reformation of convicts mainly within prison walls, not without. But there is another text from a book with which the Governor is doubtless as familiar as he is with the state constitution, to which attention may be called. It is the following from Holy Writ:

> Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child. . . . The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

The tender solicitude of Governor West and his group for the state constitution—a document which they have long ignored and spurned and looked upon as embodying the archaic and foolish notions of our old-fashioned and ignorant forefathers—is a most interesting manifestation of mock reverence. Possibly the following quotation from a great writer of the past—Gibbon—would appear to have a greater relevancy to the times and the fashions in men's opinions than either of the foregoing excerpts:

> Under a democratic government, the citizens exercise the powers of sovereignty and those powers will be first abused, and afterwards lost, if they are committed to an unwieldly multitude.

But of course West, U'Ren and the rest know better.

THE WESTERN GATEWAY.

A cause for gratification due to the building of the Panama Canal is a decided revival of interest in shipbuilding and owning, not only in the maritime but in the interior states. This revival is far different from that which was artificially created by the ship subsidy agitation, for it is spontaneous and is not aimed at gratifying the selfish greed of a single industry or a single section. It is the outgrowth of National pride mortified at the prospect that, when we have finished the canal, we shall ourselves make less use of it than nations with only a fraction of our wealth and population.

A product of this revived interest in a book entitled "The Western Gateway," by Patrick H. W. Ross, a banker of Western Washington. The author is a typical citizen of the world. Born a British subject, he has lived in Hawaii among Americans, traveled much and finally chosen the United States as his country. He argues that the United States has been so busy developing the continent and has drawn so large a proportion of its immigration from the agricultural people of Europe that it has ceased to think as a seagoing Nation. He proposes to create a desire to own ships by making a free port of the whole of Western Washington, where the products of the world may be exchanged as they were formerly in the German free ports of Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck, and where world ports may grow up equal in rank to London, Liverpool and Hongkong. This district he would exempt from tariff and shipping laws, allowing "free commerce, free ships, free crews, free raw materials, free goods, free labor." The custom-houses would be moved inland to the eastern boundaries of this district.

Mr. Ross falls foul of known facts in underrating Portland's future as an ocean port. He predicts that Portland will become one of the largest cities in the United States, but says that, "although a good port and capable of being made very good, Portland can never be supremely good." He continues: "I doubt whether it is possible anywhere in the world to create a supremely good port at the mouth of a great river." Portland is not "at the mouth of" a great river, but 110 miles from its mouth, thus fulfilling the requirement for the greatest ports that they not only be accessible to ocean ships, but have the largest percentage of land within a radius of 100 miles. That this definition of a great port is sound is made evident by passing in review the world's great ports. London is on the Thames, Liverpool on the Mersey, Glasgow on the Clyde, Havre on the Seine, Hamburg on the Elbe, Antwerp on the Scheldt, Canton and Tien Tsin in China, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, also are at the mouth of or the head of navigation on great rivers.

Mr. Ross' book is a valuable contribution to the discussion of that greater freedom of commerce of which the most encouraging part is the growing movement for free ships. His free port scheme is in line with that movement, though his approving comment on ship subsidies paid by other nations betrays some confusion of ideas on the subject.

THE FAMILY TYPE OF SOCIETY.

A letter from Mr. A. S. Froslid, which is printed in The Oregonian this morning, contains the following striking sentence: "This problem, in common with the whole subject of criminology and lawmaking generally, can hardly be solved satisfactorily without looking at humanity as a family, not as an aggregation of equals." The problem to which he refers is that of dealing with murderous-minded degenerates. In another place Mr. Froslid adds: "Would it not be better to recognize the family relation, giving more prominence to duties than to rights, to love rather than force?"

It is our candid opinion that if mankind could agree upon the significance of the word "love" and apply it unswervingly to the problems of the world every social difficulty would disappear like morning dew. The history of the last 2000 years covers one great effort to do this very thing. The effort has not succeeded as yet, but it may by and by. Thus far "love" has been thwarted by self-interest and stupidity. Some time it may get the upper hand and then there will be no reason why we should not see that "Kingdom of Heaven," or golden age of which the saints and sages have always been dreaming.

As for the family relation to which Mr. Froslid thinks we ought to return, it was the primitive social state. Usually we cannot solve new problems by returning to old conditions, and in this case the method would be particularly unhappy. Our correspondent would transform society into a single great patriarchal family with someone at the head in the position of the Roman paterfamilias or the Jewish Abraham, the people being arranged in regular subordination like older and younger children. The patriarch must have absolute power over those beneath him or it would not be a family. If questions were put to vote we should have a republic, which was the stage into which the family naturally evolved. Where the family did not evolve into a republic it decayed into an absolute monarchy. Could we return to it the consequence would be nothing else than a repetition of this old process.

THE COST OF LIVING.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has been asked for its approval of a project to establish an international commission on the cost of living. It is notorious that the cost has been rising of late not in this country alone, but in all parts of the civilized world. In the United States the struggle to meet new and difficult conditions has excited discontent, both social and political. No doubt it lies at the root of what is called "insurgency" in politics. Certainly it accounts for the bitterness of our labor troubles. But our disturbances over the rising cost of living are mild compared with those of some European countries. It has driven the British government to try old-age pensions as a remedy and has upset the ancient system of taxation in that realm. In France its effects apear as "sabotage," with a ferocity in the relations between capital and labor of which we happily have seen but a few samples in this country. But we shall see more if there is not a change of spirit on both sides.

So we might pass from one country to another and everywhere we should see abundant evidence that a commission to inquire into the cost of living might find plenty of useful work. Of course a mere compilation of dry facts would not be of much consequence. Here and there a person may be met who denies that it is any more difficult to make a living now than it was twenty-five years ago, but the ordinary individual is convinced by stern experience that it is a great deal more difficult. What he wants is some knowledge of the reasons for the new and grinding conditions. The proposed commission can do its best work by inquiring into causes rather than mere facts. Why is it harder for an American citizen to live a self-respecting life and support a family creditably than it was fifty years ago? Until this question has been answered and a remedy provided, how idle it is to rave over such secondary subjects as race suicide. The problem of the cost of living is twofold. From one point of view it refers to the amount of money required to buy the necessaries and comforts of life. But this is after all a minor consideration. The subject of real interest is the amount of effort, or "labor sacrifice," which must be traded for a living.

In a perfectly organized society it would be just as easy to earn a living when gold was scarce as when it was plentiful. Prices would fall when gold slipped out of circulation and rise when new mines were opened but that would make no difference as to the quantity of "labor sacrifice" needed to obtain food and clothing. Wages would keep pace with other prices, going up as gold flowed in and down when it flowed out. The mutual relation of all prices would be constant, no matter how prices themselves might fluctuate and hence the actual quantity of money in circulation would not affect the real cost of living. In other words, the effort needed to obtain the good things of life would remain the same without regard to the supply of gold. This, we say, would be the case in a perfectly organized society. That it is not the case in our present social structure needs no repetition. It has been said often enough. We mention the gold supply in this connection only to remind the reader that it is a rather superficial factor in the complicated problem of the cost of living. It affects prices certainly, but it does not account for that fluctuating interrelation among prices which makes the trouble.

We are disposed to believe that when the proposed commission has finished its inquiries it will have discovered three fundamental forces pulling together to increase the difficulty of gaining a livelihood. The first is monopoly. When a group of men obtain the power to fix the price upon any necessary of life it stands to reason that they will use it. They may veil their acts under many a plausible pretext. They may make black look white and big little, but when they possess the power to raise the cost and the cost rises it requires some little intellectual deftness to avoid the obvious inference of cause and effect. Twenty years ago or more our statesmen discerned the natural relation between monopoly and the cost of living and passed the Sherman Act to safeguard the people. With the law on the statute book monopoly throve unchecked and prices marched upward in an unbroken procession. Perhaps it is too late now to retrieve the disaster by enforcing the act so long ignored. We are told that it is difficult to unscramble eggs. One section of the public has even fallen into the habit of thinking about changing the ownership of the dish rather than analyzing it into its elements.

The second factor in the rising expense of living is what economists call "the law of diminishing returns." According to this law, which is as universal as it is cruel, the greater the demand which mankind makes on the resources of the world the more labor we must expend to get what we need. The more people there are the harder they must toil to keep from starving. No doubt the United States is feeling the first rude grip of the law of diminishing returns. From now onward it will be our intimate companion everywhere and always and we shall have plenty of opportunity to get thoroughly acquainted with it. It is a law which cannot be repealed by the initiative nor modified by rhetoric. "The moving finger writes and having writ moves onward," and you can make speeches until you are gray without altering a single word.

The third force which we have in mind is waste. Some may prefer to call it a bad habit instead of a force, but for our part we know of no force in the world equal to that of habit, and therefore we shall cling to our own nomenclature. Look anywhere you like in our society and the most conspicuous fact that meets you is waste. It begins in the kitchen, spreads upward like a desolating fire through the city government, wreaks its infuriate will in the state legislatures and reigns unchallenged at every capital in the world. It is a moderate estimate that one-half the entire product of human industry is lost by bad management, vanity, foolish enmities and stupidity. Until we have applied a few reforms in this direction it is not very encouraging to talk about reducing the cost of living by law.

ROSY VISIONS FOR THE WEARY.

Not being acquainted with Mr. Ivan Jalowski, who writes to The Oregonian about single tax today, we are in doubt whether his letter is intended as sarcasm or is the result of the writer's associating for long periods of time with only himself. Prolonged solitary contemplation of the mysteries of life often produces weird and beautiful dreams, be that contemplation by the Hindu under the midday sun on the secrets of the spiritual life or by the white man under the rain-spattered roof of Oregon on the problems of the physical existence.

The promises of this writer are not more ridiculous than those of other single-taxers. The latter have many dreamers in the ranks. Some of the advocates of single tax proclaim, for example, that its adoption will end the social evil and solve the saloon problem, to say nothing of settling the controversies between capital and labor, promoting building and inducing cultivation of vacant lands.

The one point that causes us to doubt the genuineness of the correspondent's sentiments as expressed in the letter is his placing the proper limit of a day's work at two hours. Why two hours? Anybody who advocates a two-hour workday does not at heart want to work at all. Every industrious man knows he would be perfectly miserable with fourteen waking hours every day in which to loaf. Roaming in beautiful parks, promenading grand boulevards and gazing upon magnificent buildings as daily occupations would palL on any one of working age and normal strength who was not constitutionally lazy. There are comparatively few lazy men in Oregon. No well-balanced man would seriously seek to carry a measure by appealing to the ambition of the drones.

By abdicating instead of waiting to be forcibly deposed, the Manchus may be able to leave China without being reduced to such straits as was ex-King Manuel. It is better to be an ex-monarch with a bank account than to be a dead monarch or to be driven to borrowing of one's royal relatives.

Absurdity of the postal regulations is again shown in the incident at Seattle, wherein a package five feet square, weighing eighty-two pounds, was forwarded to Australia. Not even an order from the Supreme Court in this land could get it into the local mails.

Some will disagree with Dr. Rappold's statement that the wife whose genius he developed and who cast him off has risen to a sphere far above him. No sphere can be very exalted which condones ingratitude.

Britain and Russia may clinch their spheres of influence in Persia, but they will have to do it with bullet and bayonets. Asiatics of every shade of color have an instinctive repugnance to living in spheres of influence.

The local trolley company has agreed to heat its cars and needs go but a step farther, by teaching its conductors the rudiments of the science of ventilation.

Perhaps in the matter of closed draws the Government will heed the wish of the great City of Portland better than that of Multnomah County.

We must not become asylum for the entire Pacific Northwest, however. There must be means adopted to identify the unemployed as our own.

Any architects' prize competition is sure to stir up a row, so there need be no surprise at the criticism of the Auditorium award.

It is part of American economic life that there always shall be dissension in school matters. These turmoils produce results.

Representative Kent proves himself a true progressive by declairng for free ships in preference to free canal tells.

The peace treaties are stirring up war in New York. This battle, like many others, rages around the Colonel.

The smudgepot will save the orange crop in California and the wise grower is ready.

When you feel inclined to growl about the rain, read of the blizzards.

The East Side charter board is getting down to splinters.

Stars and Star-Makers

By Leone Cass Baer.

Lilian (one "l") Graham, a European dancer who recently was seen on Broadway in "The Red Rose," has made the announcement that she is going to change her name. Following the incident of the W. E. D. Stokes spectacular portrayal of a revolver range Miss Lilian Graham attempted to distinguish herself from the Lillian Graham of that contest by dropping one "l" from her name. She found, however, so many people confusing her identity with that of the markswoman, that hereafter she will use the name of Lysa Graham. She says her principal reason for making the change is that she feared European music hall managers would be afraid to deal with her.

* * *

In Sacramento where Fred Niblo and his wife Josephine Cohan are appearing at the Clunie Theater, in "The Fortune Hunter," a huge Christmas box from the Cohan family reached them on Christmas day. Among the remembrances was a play written by George M. Cohan, playwright, actor and poet-laureate of the Great White Way sent as a gift to his sister. As ownership of a Cohan play is considered generally to be equivalent to a fortune, the gift is probably one of the most munificent received by any woman this Christmas season. Miss Cohan has forsaken musical comedy for straight comedy and just before going on tour in "The Fortune Hunter," her brother George told her that he was about to prepare a new play, the second he had written minus music, and that it was to be the new vehicle for the Niblo-Cohan starring organization. Cohan didn't let his sister know that the play would be in her hands by Christmas day. When she received it there was attached to the manuscript a notarled document worded: "This play is to be played without royalties to its author, George M. Cohan, as long as it is presented by his sister, Josephine, and her husband, Fred Niblo."

* * *

Louise Dresser is to take a whirl over the Orpheum circuit, or at least a part of it, her tour beginning on December 31. She is doing this pending the completion of a new musical play which is being written for her. Her tour is to last 18 weeks, so it's probable she'll get out to the Pacific Coast.

* * *

When the play Charles Klein is now writing from Rex Beach's latest "best seller," "The Ne'er Do Well," is produced in New York City early next season the chief role of Kirk Anthony will be personated by Hale Hamilton who created the title part in George M. Cohan's great comedy hit "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" in which he is at present appearing in Boston. Hamilton is one of the most conspicuous of the younger generation of actors who have come to the front with rapid strides in the past few years. He made his first New York hit as the young Wall street broker in "The Fortune Hunter" and his pleasing personality should make his selection as the hero of the new Beach-Klein play a wise one. "The Ne'er Do Well" is to reach the stage under the auspices of the Authors' Producing Company, a newly-organized firm of which John Cort is president, and which is the managerial sponsor for Charles Klein's play "The Gamblers" which is to be the New Year's attraction at the Heilig.

* * *

In the Dramatic Mirror the "Matinee Girl" tells of how a few actors spent Christmas:

Lillian Russell, while on tour, often omits her Christmas matinee and gives a dinner to her company in her private car. There is a plum pudding for which she has sent to England three months before. There are toasts to the absent ones, including the manager.

Genee gave a Christmas feast to her company on the stage, setting up again the big tree that had been part of one scene. So with Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, Kate Douglas Wiggin, the author, playing Santa Claus. In fact, in most of the Klaw & Erlanger companies, the celebration of Christmas is an institution.

Robert Edeson and his wife, who travels with him, celebrated Christmas as they have the day of general joy, in their villa at Strongheart, ever since their marriage. Mr. Edeson is resting this week, and Christmas was celebrated at the Sag Harbor home on Sunday.

"There'll be a week of life as we like it," his pretty, young wife said, "with log fires and apple jack, and riding through the woods and a tree cut from our own woods by Bob himself."

Between rehearsals and his wife's cruelly forcing him to accompany her on her Christmas shopping tours, which he says have left one night stands far behind in the misery race, Otis Skinner is somewhat worn and cries out against a day which he declares is "The great annual swap."

Wilton Lackaye was once moved to write of the seamy side of Christmas, that is the side swept away from home, these verses:

O lords of hearths and dames of homes,
Whose joy of this time speaks
In the ringing of your laughter, in the holly of your cheeks,
'Twixt the oysters and the coffee let a cheerful toast be drunk
To the player's poor Penates
In the top tray of his trunk.
While children of an older growth their youngsters' antics view,
And in baby frolics sharing their lost fable-faith renew;
While peace of home and mirth of rest are found on every hand,
We've the dank insult called dinner in a Western one-night stand.

* * *

Edna Showalter, the vocalist, who was heard here this season with "Chevalier" and who was the first singer engaged by Henry W. Savage for "The Girl of the Golden West" in English, has sued the manager for $33,700 damages. She asks $25,000 for continuing to use her name and photograph after he had discharged her and $8700 due in salary. Miss Showalter was dropped from the cast after two performances.

* * *

Henry Miller, in a recent interview, said pertinent things about conditions among the younger playwrights. He has so many manuscripts submitted to him, many of which are rich in new ideas but so ridiculously lacking in the knowledge of stagecraft, that exasperation must finally set in. The actor whose life is confined to hard work in a theater has little or no time for life outside with the springs of new ideas which such a life can provide; so when the actor writes plays he is as a rule rich in the technique of the stage, but poor in material; while the average playwright is the reverse in both particulars. Mr. Miller declares that vaudeville audiences are not fitted to genuine dramatic entertainment; the continual change from one thing to another makes them incapable and undesirous of continued concentration on one thing. This prevalence of vaudeville has had its effect on the legitimate audiences, who, Mr. Miller finds, are restless in the face of a serious performance. He is a scorner of elaborate scenery, but a strong advocate of the emotional drama.

HUMANITY TREATED AS FAMILY

Correspondent Would Recognize Brotherly Relation in Law Making.

PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I note an editorial in The Oregonian today on the right of society to protect itself against murderers, but this is not written in a controversial spirit. This problem, in common with the whole subject of criminology and law making generally, can hardly be solved satisfactorily without looking at humanity as a family, not as an aggregation of equals. We have proceeded in our law making on the theory of equality and by this time most people are dissatisfied with the results. Would it not be wiser to recognize the family relation, giving more prominence to duties than to rights, to love rather than force?

The chief trouble in the treatment of criminals, and more especially murderers, is the materialism of religion as generally taught. For in practical matters we fail to recognize man as an evolving spiritual entity, though religion is based upon this fact. We may pretend, but do not really believe in a life outside the body. We recognize material evolution, but fail to realize the reality of spiritual evolution. How can we understand and treat criminals rightly without taking note of the fact that conscience is an evolving power? In some it is weak and in others so strong that physical life is given up rather than violate its edicts. Nor can this discrepancy be explained by physical environment alone. It does not reach the bottom of the problem.

The facts should tell us that we have grown-up children and that we must treat them accordingly. But if we face the problems with candor we must also admit that these children are not the natural law makers. Then we are up against the problem of who are to make laws. Here again the spirit of brotherhood, the spirit of the family relation, is the only means of a satisfactory solution, for we now lose sight of our rights and pay attention to duties and the promptings of love. We become less eager to seek to pass laws favoring ourselves and getting at the other fellow, and on the other hand we become more concerned lest we should do injustice, lest we should literally force the young and weak souls into vice and crime and thus making their sins our own even more than theirs.

In most men at this stage of human evolution the power to resist evil is limited. Placed in certain environment fall is therefore absolutely sure to follow when the limit is reached. This places a tremendous responsibility on those who think they are not criminals nor addicted to vice. How can we solve the labor problem without recognizing this family relation? Clearly some are evolved to serve the family in one capacity and some in another; some with manual and some with mental labor. But the division of the earnings should be made in the family spirit. As it is we recognize two factors in production, capital and labor and between the two the earnings are supposed to be divided. But capital swells up and is padding its account. It even claims the space and resources of the planet without regard to the fact that these are for the support of the family. What is the reaction to be? The oppression of the weaker members of the family must eventually let down all bars of restraint.

But can we in practice recognize the family relation without broadening our religious conception so as clearly to recognize the spiritual man imprisoned for a time in a physical body for the purpose of its evolution? It becomes necessary to note that souls enter the world with different capacities morally and intellectually; different capacities to acquire and achieve morally and intellectually. While we know this to be fact, we are startled by the inevitable conclusion that the inhabitant of the body has an age independent of the age of the body, that some human beings must remain children all their life.

As regards the killing of murderers will it shock anybody to suggest that as the executed murderer escapes from his body full of revenge he is free to offer suggestions to all in a similar frame of mind? This is a real and terrible danger, and the proper place to keep such men is in prison. Those who cannot see how these suggestions are offered and are not willing to trust the word of those who can, might be willing to give society the benefit of the doubt if they could only be induced to investigate the available evidence.

A. S. FROSLID.

SINGLE TAX AND THE MILLENIUM

Great Promises of Earthly Paradise Held Out to the Lazy.

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—C. P. Strain, Assessor of Umatilla County, in a letter to The Oregonian today says "single tax will destroy private ownership in land," which is not quite correctly stated. We single taxers propose to leave just enough of the rental value in land to the present owners so that they will apply their intelligence, education and business acumen in putting the land to its greatest productivity. We will let the land owners take the responsibility, but we will take nearly all of what the land produces, whether the crop is collected in city rents or farm products.

We will go still further. We will vote and sell bonds against the land owners' holdings to build magnificent public buildings, grand boulevards, beautiful parks, establish homes for the aged and poor and havens of rest for the weary and heavy laden. We will shorten the work day from eight hours to six hours, and then to four hours and later on, to what it should be, or two hours.

By carrying on vast public improvements from the sale of bonds, we will double and treble wages. If the land owners get gay, we will pass an initiative measure cancelling all private debts. Through the philanthropy of Mr. Fels, the sagacity of Mr. U'Ren and the beauty of the Oregon system, the people will surely come into their own. The only cloud on the horizon is the remote possibility of the Supreme Court of the United States declaring unconstitutional the initiative and referendum, and unless this calamity should overtake us, single tax will overwhelmingly carry at the next election. Vive l 'U'Ren. Vive la Oregon system.

IVAN JALOWSKI.

The Senate O. K.'s Tipping.

Washington (D. C.) Cor. N. Y. World.

The United States Senate has put its official O. K. on the tipping evil. It has been influenced in this by W. Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, who supervises the Senate cuisine. Mr. Crane's views on tipping have led to a repeal of the anti-tipping law of a year ago, when a boldly printed legend appeared on the menu cards of the Senate restaurant reading, "No Tipping Allowed."

The sign did not stop the evil. The waiters, fully aware that instant dismissal would follow if they were caught at it, took tips with the same alacrity as before, and the patrons gave up with the customary reluctance.

This year a new style menu card is in operation. The "no-tipping" slogan is missing. The oversight of the printer is not escaping the victims of the waiters.

Greatest Employment Bureau.

Chicago Record-Herald.

In the Civil Service Commission, the United States Government has the greatest employment bureau in the world. Over half a million people are on the Government payroll, and of these nearly half are receiving pay as the result of competitive examinations.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of Dec. 28, 1861.

The Norfolk Day Book of the 13th acknowledges that a negro plot had been discovered at Charleston and we have no doubt that the great conflagration which has laid in ashes that once opulent city was the work of slaves.—San Francisco Herald.

(A graphic account of the battle and capture of Port Royal by the Union fleet is reported from the New York Herald.)

A letter from Cincinnati says that the defeat of a Union party in Guyandotte, Va., was the result of trickery. At the time the Union men were there, there was a rebel force in the neighborhood of some 1000 men. These proposed, with the assistance of the citizens of Guyandotte, to annihilate the Union troops. The Guyandotte people were to invite them about to their houses, treat them with kindness and then, by signal, invite the rebels in to the treat of murder. This was done, and our Union men were murdered by the citizens and soldiers in cold blood. Many, however, escaped. The murders were mostly effected in the houses. When Colonel Zeigler arrived and heard the particulars of the affair, he ordered the destruction of the town. The buildings were immediately fired and the whole town reduced to ashes.

It is evident that a great battle is impending between the two armies in Virginia. Both Northern and Southern accounts agree that one is inevitable. We had already received intelligence that the Confederate forces were withdrawing from the Potomac, but it seems that this movement had only been observed in the left wing of the rebel army. The center was advancing, and in the meantime McClellan was also making a forward movement. The battle will be tremendous, for some 400,000 men will be engaged, assisted by artillery more formidable than was ever brought into one field.—San Francisco Herald.

Report of public schools for quarter ending December 20—senior department—G. F. Boynton, principal; Miss F. M. Kittredge, assistant. Whole number of scholars, 95, average number, 69.

Intermediate department—Miss E. J. Way, principal. Whole number of scholars, 110; average number, 50.

Primary department—Mrs. M. Hensil, principal; Mrs. J. Frazer, assistant. Whole number of scholars, 110; average number, 80. Whole number attending school, 268; average daily attendance, 198.

General McClellan would not allow two bands of music to serenade his wife. He is opposed to all that sort of thing.

The Alta says that a united effort will be made in Congress to procure the restoration of the pony express.

A night or two since the balloonists, Lane and Dan Sickles, made an ascension from the Maryland shore of the Potomac and near Quantico Creek. The balloon was lifted almost directly over some of the rebel camps, and they had an excellent opportunity by means of the camp fires visible to determine the position of the enemy. The fires were lighted from Occognan and they continued down along the line of the road to the vicinity of Dumfries. They were also visible along the two roads as far back as Brentsville. There is no doubt of the rebels being present in strong force, and that they have not fallen back as has been alleged by some of the correspondence from the city.

As He Understood It.

Ladies' Home Journal.

A young Canadian came to Washington, D. C., and was making a call upon a very pretty young woman whom he met for the first time.

"Do you have reindeer in Canada?" asked the young lady.

"No, darling," he answered, "at this season it always snows."

Dollars and American Farms.

Indianapolis News.

American farms, exclusive of buildings, are valued at $28,770,000.

N. NITTS ON MADNESS.

Nescius Nitts, whose philosophy had
Become about Punkindorf, really the fad,
Shot nicotine death—ah, conclusion most sad—
At a roach that romped round on a new blotting pad;
Then spake upon madness, and why men go mad.

"I sees by the papers that Doc Mary Walker,
Who allus was found more or less of a talker,
Has come to the front and has named the real source
Of what makes men's brains wobble out of their course,
Declarin' it's due to the presence, by Heck,
Of them collar buttons, at back of the neck.

"'Annoyin' and chafin' the nerves of the spine
It soon throws his reasonin' power out o' line,'
She says. I myself notes another 'fect too
In buttons, to jolt a man's reason askew
And drive him to rampage around, fer a fac',
And make a display like a plumb maniac.

"It works out this way. If you ever has tried
To slap on a collar and get your tie tied,
Nine buttons in ten, will fall out of the hole,
Bounce onto the floor, and to 'blivion roll;
And many's the man I has seen jest a-cuttin'
Of mad, crazy capers, while huntin' a button.

"Of course collar buttons can drive men insane,
And make 'em rage round jest like wild things in pain,
Drop down on all fours and prance round here and there,
Crawl under the dresser and growl like a bear;
They shore drives men mad—in more ways, I opines,
Than merely by pressin' the backs of their spines.

"But sence Dr. Walker has come to the light
And brought the fac' out to the popular sight,
I can't help a-thinkin' this knowledge will cause
A marvellous change in our treatment of laws,
And give added force and much more certainty
To 'Merica's honored insanity plea.

"The man who has shot someone else will not need
To have his dementia well guaranteed
By alienists, who depose and explain
That brainstorms or somethin' was foggin' his brain;
He'll need but to show to them jurymen gents
A bone collar button fer ample defense."

—By Dean Collins.