

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, January 26, 1912.

WHY NOT A PRESS AGENT FOR TAFT?

The Washington correspondent of The Oregonian the other day had a letter suggesting that the greatest need of the Taft Administration is a publicity agent. We guess that the President has a direct and quiet way of doing the greatest things without flourish, or pyrotechnics, or circus mechanics. The trumpets never blow when he makes his stage entrance. It never occurs to him that the spotlight is reserved for his special use. He does nothing for his own sake. No wonder the public looks with wonder, when it looks at all, at the spectacle of a modest citizen in a great place, persistently working at the job.

There are the trusts—the wicked, law-breaking trusts, run by certain malefactors of great wealth. The President presides steadily and resolutely prosecuting them in the courts, not in the newspapers. A due regard for the expectations of the public would have made quite a different plan highly expedient. The malefactors should have been summoned to the White House, one by one, and the presence of the assembled reporters would have been assigned to the Auditor's Club, with due accessories of thunder and lightning. Then the Attorney-General and his gallant army of prosecutors should have been deputed to the scene of combat, with bands playing, brasses beating, and the courts of justice should have been told what's what. Hourly bulletins describing the progress of hostilities should have been smothered from the dome of the Capitol. The result, if favorable, should also have been announced. Then the country would have sat up and taken notice.

International peace is another great subject wherein President Taft has plainly overlooked his easy and inviting opportunities. He has mistakenly thought it was his duty through the Secretary of State and his other diplomatic agents merely to negotiate treaties with the accredited representatives of the great foreign powers, and then invite the Senate to ratify them. But that was an amateurish notion, suitable perhaps for Presidents in the days of our forefathers, who thought that the Constitution and the laws were just about all that was needed to govern a great and powerful nation. But your real modern President would have taken quite another course. One fine way would have been to pick a quarrel with some foreign nation, or half a dozen of them, send our splendid American fleet to the shores of one of the belligerent powers after another, threaten them with attack, and then, when the country was worked up into a fever of patriotic excitement, to negotiate a treaty of amity and peace with the whole lot of 'em. That would have been a coup worth while.

President Taft has not even known how to burn the red fire and pound the cymbals. What's the use having a President if he doesn't remind you every day by some spectacular or sensational act that he is the President?

OUR DEATH RATE.

According to Census Bureau statistics the death rate in the United States for 1910 was just about the same as a thousand population, which is a pretty good showing. This is a fairly healthy country even as things are and it will be healthier when we have learned to eat pure food and avoid contaminated air, milk and water. No doubt the impure air which pervades daily breathes causes more deaths than any other one thing, but bad water makes a good second and poisonous food is not far behind the twin. Compared with these allies of the King of Terrors old King Alcohol is an innocent angel, though he has plenty of sins on his conscience.

The old rule that the unmarried die off faster than the married was not broken in 1910. The deaths of unmarried persons outnumbered the married in this country by about 100,000. The greater longevity of the latter is attributed to their comforts of home, especially home cooking, perhaps. Mother's pies and salt rising bread keep father in good health far beyond the time when miserable old bachelors are obliged to pass in their checks.

In 1910 more males than females finished their earthly careers. The excess, in fact, was almost 100,000, which was pretty nearly the same as that of the deaths of celibates over the married. This is another instance where the established rules of mortality were followed. Insurance statistics show that a man's chances of life are less than a woman's, though there is a period in middle life when the proportion is reversed. It is said that men expose themselves to more hardships than women and incur so many more dangers that the result tells appreciably on their chances of survival at any fixed age. It is a curious circumstance that, in spite of this well-known truth, the insurance companies declined to take women as risks for many years after they accepted men freely.

The deaths from tuberculosis in 1910 outnumbered those from any other cause than 4000. It will be interesting to learn in due time whether the war against the great white plague has reversed this proportion in 1912.

PLAYING POLITICS.

Our troubled friends, the woolgrowers of Oregon, have appealed to Senator Chamberlain for a definition of his attitude on wool tariff revision—schedule K—and they got this highly illuminating assurance, delivered with the candor, directness and feeling for which the Senator is famous:

I am inclined to believe that it will never be settled until it is settled right and that the American people long ago reached the conclusion that somewhere in Schedule K there was a good-man, bad-man. Now getting what this schedule pretended to give, the woolgrowers have not been getting the terms of the Eastern manufacturer and dealer. I hope that this Congress will reach some solution of the matter, for I am inclined to believe that it is impossible to change the laws so long as the courts can "interpret" them. It is to be feared also that Mr. Root has paid too little attention to the real condition of some of our courts in the matter of independence. Judges like me do not move. Since a large section of the public mind is fixed in the belief that the courts make and unmake the laws at their own pleasure it is useless to tell the public that changing the laws is an effective remedy for the evils complained of. The recall will be as good as impossible to change the laws so long as the courts can "interpret" them. It is to be feared also that Mr. Root has paid too little attention to the real condition of some of our courts in the matter of independence. Judges like me do not move. Since a large section of the public mind is fixed in the belief that the courts make and unmake the laws at their own pleasure it is useless to tell the public that changing the laws is an effective remedy for the evils complained of.

WORD FROM ROOSEVELT.

Colonel Roosevelt has written ex-Councilman Ellis a letter. There appears to be no question about that momentous fact. But the contents of that memorable letter Mr. Ellis would not care to publish. We will repeat it here, however, that the Colonel expressed the hope that he (Ellis) was enjoying good health and would call on him some time in New York. Wonderful, wonderful!

There is nothing in the confidential communication from Colonel Roosevelt discouraging the Oregon moving in his behalf for the Presidential nomination. So much more Mr. Ellis deems himself justified in saying. But no more, no more. All the rest is buried in the circumspetuous souls of the two loving correspondents.

We are wofully puzzled about that Roosevelt letter. We'll wager it contains some weighty information which the Colonel has seen fit to confide only to the bosom of his trusted Oregon friend, of whom he never before heard unless perchance he happened across the returns in the recent recall election which he had to see. We'll bet we know not, but we can guess.

SENATOR ROOT ON THE RECALL OF JUDGES.

In his address at the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association Senator Root argued against the recall of judges and as a matter of course he argued ably. Mr. Root is as distinguished for the rational conservatism of his views on public questions as he is for his legal learning. When he opposes a project we may rest assured that he has good reasons for it and his speech against the recall of judges fully justifies this conclusion. Let other public men who have spoken on the other side of the question, Senator Root's principal objection to the new plan is that it would destroy the independence of the bench. He believes that the safety of ordered government depends more upon free, unbiased judges than upon any other single factor. He is not, however, the recall would seriously impair their mental independence, he naturally concludes that its adoption would be disastrous. Being a lawyer and a great one, Mr. Root naturally takes the lawyer's view of the courts. Perhaps, like other lawyers, he even permits a little confusion to creep into his mind between what a court ought in theory to be and what it sometimes actually is.

He says, for example, that it is the duty of a judge to enforce the law as he finds it; that he has no authority to change it; that a court should have no political or economic theories and that it has nothing to do with the wisdom or folly of a given law. Its sole business is to apply the law to particular cases. With this statement of what a court ought to be and do no one can quarrel. But in our day a great many sensible people would maintain that there is a broad distinction between what the courts ought to be and what they are. It is widely asserted that judges often do cherish political and economic theories which they uphold by the tenor of their decisions. It is commonly believed in many quarters also that judges are disposed to go a great deal farther than the mere application of the law to particular cases. We frequently hear of their amending the law, of their creating new law, of their daily conversation being a matter of habit the judges have of repealing the laws which they do not happen to find convenient.

How much or little truth there may be in these rumors and reports we do not feel under any obligation to try to estimate. Our point is that they play a weighty part in creating sentiment for the recall of judges. The current argument is that since the courts have assumed the functions of legislative bodies they ought to be held to the same responsibility as legislators, and the recall, it is argued, is the only practicable method of enforcing such responsibility. We do not think that Senator Root gives weight enough to this powerful body of public opinion in casting up the causes which have made the recall of judges popular. His point is that people want to recall the judges because the decisions are now and then unpopular. He assumes, too easily, that decisions are uniformly in strict accordance with the law as it stands, and declares that the proper thing to do is, not to recall any judge who has made an unpopular decision, but to recall the law under which he was obliged to make it.

This course of reasoning sounds extremely plausible, but when it is examined it savors more of special pleading than one might expect from a man of Mr. Root's eminent capacity. We would like to say that the considerable number of unpopular decisions in strict accordance with the law would have set up a demand for the recall of judges. The demand has arisen from unpopular decisions which the public believe are not in accordance with the law. They believe that

the courts have systematically changed the law in order to give ground for the decisions. There is a wide popular conviction that the courts are "judicial interpretation" the legislative authority of the country has been effectively assumed by the courts and used by them in order to enforce certain political and economic theories. This conviction may be false, but as to its existence there can be no question and it is producing a powerful effect upon the sentiment of the people toward the courts.

It might have been well, perhaps, if Mr. Root had looked into this part of his subject a little more carefully. He cannot hope to correct public opinion by arguing in a direction where it does not move. Since a large section of the public mind is fixed in the belief that the courts make and unmake the laws at their own pleasure it is useless to tell the public that changing the laws is an effective remedy for the evils complained of. The recall will be as good as impossible to change the laws so long as the courts can "interpret" them. It is to be feared also that Mr. Root has paid too little attention to the real condition of some of our courts in the matter of independence. Judges like me do not move. Since a large section of the public mind is fixed in the belief that the courts make and unmake the laws at their own pleasure it is useless to tell the public that changing the laws is an effective remedy for the evils complained of.

NO MATERIAL FOR NEW STATES.

What are we to do for new states? We have become so accustomed to the admission of one or two at somewhat irregular intervals that we shall feel that something is missing in our political life unless we continue the habit. But we have used up all the material available by admitting New Mexico and Arizona.

We must suspend operations until Alaska is ripe for statehood, which will not be for many years, unless Congress quickly shows the ultra-conservationists to the door and lets us develop her resources. We may have to fall back on Porto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii and even Guam in order to keep the statehood mill grinding. We should then vary the hues of Congress with splashes of brown and black.

Life will be dull and uninteresting without the territorial clamoring for statehood. There will be no available means for a party to reinforce a slim and shaky majority in Congress by admitting a new state warranted to be of its own political complexion. The only chance for the Democrats will be to divide Texas and the Republicans will retaliate only by Alaska into sections and admitting each section as a state. We shall no longer hear our Forakers and Beveridges sorrowing over the wrongs of our territorial stepchildren.

GERMAN OPINION OF CUBA.

A certain jingo element in Germany is so greedy of territory and so ready to take it by fair means or foul that it cannot conceive of a nation not wishing to take territory when it has the opportunity. It opposes arbitration because a peaceful means of settling international disputes according to the principles of equity would block the gratification of its desire to grab territory by brute force. This is the explanation of a German newspaper's hope that the arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain will fall and of its charge that the United States is "playing a slow but sure game for the absorption of Cuba."

To Americans, who all know about our race problems, the conduct of the United States in refusing to annex Cuba is the most natural course to pursue. Our aim being, so far as possible, to amalgamate our population in a homogeneous body, each member of which is fit to have a voice in the Government, we have reluctantly added to our population the Porto Ricans, Filipinos and Kanakas, whom we must educate up to the rights and responsibilities of democracy and who can never be amalgamated. Hence we are not disposed to add to mixed populations of Cuba to our troubles. To the German jingo it would be a simple matter to take Cuba and rule her people with bayonet and whip.

The desire on the part of the German jingo for the failure of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty is inspired by the purpose to keep alive the possibility of quarrels between these two nations. So long as the United States and Great Britain are not leagued for peace, Germany can nourish friction between them, out of which she might draw advantage. This is the draw together by treaties of arbitration, she can see no alternative to fighting her battles alone.

But the victory of the progressive parties in the Reichstag election destroys, or at least greatly impairs, the power of the jingos to stir up trouble. Democracy is gaining the upper hand in Germany, and its instinctive sympathy with democracy in the three democratic nations which are about to form a peace league will paralyze the arm of militarism.

THE FARMER AND THE HEN.

It is said by persons who are supposed to know that fully 200 carloads of eggs were shipped in Portland the last year. This is a showing that ought to cause the farmers of Oregon to do a little thinking. By farmers we mean every person who owns a tract of land large enough for a garden patch and a hen-coop, for by the very latest developments in poultry industry it has been found that the large runs which were formerly considered essential for poultry and egg production are not necessary. We know of no statistics, at least none reliable, going to show what percentage of eggs and poultry are produced by specialists in the business, and what percentage are turned off by those who treat the business simply as a side line, like the ordinary farmer. But we are of the opinion that the farmers' hens turn out more eggs and more poultry than the specialists' fowls do—far more. Therefore believe that an increase in the poultry and egg supply in Oregon must come from the farmers' hens, and not from the specialists, and it is to this class of people, already keeping poultry, that we need to look well

into the situation and consider whether their flocks of fowls cannot be so enlarged as to keep these millions of dozens of foreign eggs out of our market and the cost thereof at home. More than this—turn the importation of poultry and poultry products into a channel of exportation, as ought to be done, as could be done if our land owners were alive to their opportunities.

A large number of the carloads mentioned as imported come from Nebraska and Kansas; yet every condition for the economical conduct of the poultry business are so far superior in this state over the states mentioned as not to be open for argument. Our climate, our supply of green food during the winter months, our cool and equable Summers and mild Winters, our early Springs when the hatching season is at its best—all conditions here are practically ideal for cheap production of poultry and eggs.

It is said that hundreds of people in Kansas and Nebraska are going about erecting poultry houses for the farmers, such houses costing from \$20 to \$300, and as a result those states are increasing their output by leaps and bounds; while with us the farmer is scarcely any increase in production. The industry is not even keeping pace with our growth of population.

If The Oregonian could be the means of stirring only the farmers to action, and could induce each one to add a dozen hens to his flock, we would feel that we had done a great and lasting good to every citizen of the state. Of course we cannot hope to accomplish any such result, but we do hope every poultry owner who reads this article will consider whether or no he cannot do his part towards early disposal of surplus eggs, so far as eggs and poultry are concerned. The specialists will never stop the leak—the farmers can do it.

If a man who has five wives can steal \$10,000 worth of butter, how long can he keep out of jail? This is a question that is puzzling the schoolchildren of Fargo, N. D., and interesting their elders a little. The hero of the tale is one Murray, who seems to have had a wife in every town where he stole butter. What is the relation between matrimony and this particular crime? It would be interesting if one could discover it.

What the "jams and jellies" which are sold at some stores are really made of is a dark mystery. Inspectors found the other day that a certain "strawberry jam" was beautified with grains of millet to imitate the seeds. What else there was in the mess we ask in vain. All we are certain of is that there were no strawberries. The stall-walk bodies which American citizens need cannot be built up with such material as this "strawberry jam."

Prussia has good cause to celebrate the birth of Frederick the Great, for he raised Prussia from a petty principality to be one of the first powers of Europe. His military genius, which won splendid victories over great odds, founded the greatness of Prussia, and ultimately of Germany as a military power. He ranks with Caesar, Hannibal, Washington, Napoleon, Wellington and Grant as among the world's great generals.

Nomination of Representative Randall for Senator from Louisiana will be welcome to every citizen interested in intelligent river and harbor improvement. Mr. Randall is a member of the House committee on rivers and harbors and was president of the Rivers and Harbors Congress. He visited Portland several years ago and can be counted as a good friend of Columbia River improvement and all other meritorious projects.

Senator Kenyon's indorsement of Cummins reads more like an indorsement of Taft. What he says about the attacks of big business on the President suggests a source of strength with which the Democrats would better not quarrel. Wilson implied the same opinion when he rejected Harvey's support because of the latter's corporation affiliations.

It is becoming so common for women to ask for annulment of marriage on the plea that they married on the supposition that the man was legally divorced, that the uncertainties of matrimony will aggravate man to the point of distraction. It becomes increasingly difficult to keep a woman's mind made up.

A step towards fair play for the homestead is promised by the Borah-Jones bill reported to the Senate committee. Let the Land Office reform the pernicious methods of its special agents and let Congress pass this bill, and we may check the migration to Canada.

When one of the San Diego mystics said she was "able to see enveloping a high point on the western slope a huge black cloud," that must mean Jack Johnson "copping the money" in the Salt Lake "go."

The harbors which have the best prospect of securing appropriations are those like Tillamook, whose people are willing to help themselves by sharing the cost of improvement with the Government.

There is nothing primitive about Malheur's civilization. A man in that county gets twenty years for crime upon a child. Years ago he would have received twenty seconds' suspension.

By exchanging Manchuria for Japanese rule China might gain in efficiency of government, but the Japs would probably take all the fruits of the improvement themselves. Oregonians would feel at home on Mars, for Lowell Observatory announces the canals have been doubled, and that means the rainy season is at hand. When Connaught met Major Butt yesterday he could not help forming a fine opinion of official America. "A Bird in Hand." PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—The song is called "A Bird in Hand," words by F. C. Weatherly, and music by Joseph L. Roeckel, and is published at 50 cents, in song folio No. 1, by Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston.

DEATH PENALTY AS DETERRENT.

London's and Chicago's Homicide Records Are Contrasted. FOREST GROVE, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—As the abolishment of capital punishment is to be an issue at the coming election, I thought it would be a living issue instead of a call to Governor West to perform the duties he has taken an oath to perform, would it not be well to get down to bottom facts?

Does not the question "Why do we punish the murderer?" resolve itself into two ends? First—To place the murderer where he can do the least harm. Second—To act as a deterrent to those who would commit murder. When one commits a crime which is contrary to law he has forfeited his liberty and has no right to expect he will receive anything but punishment. The law has always held that if an individual man has made a stand in the way of jeopardizing the public, the individual must give way; so when one will steal, murder, or commit any other crime, he places himself in prison or in the first degree execute him. If he were the only one that was taken into account we might place him in a cage and feed and clothe him and provide him with more luxuries and "soft sentiment" than he ever enjoyed at home and all be well. But here comes the second consideration, the deterrent effect on those who would commit crimes.

Many try to make out that life imprisonment is more of a deterrent than execution. If so why do all murderers or a great majority of them put forth so great an effort to get their sentences commuted to life imprisonment? But perhaps statistics are the only safe answer to the question.

While making up for a debate many years ago in favor of abolishing capital punishment the statistics were so strong to the fact whenever and wherever it has been abolished there has been an increase of crime that I could not consistently continue as an advocate of doing away with execution of first-degree murderers. I remember that I have had the statistics at hand but copy a few from an article in the Chicago Advance, which says: "From 1887 to 1908, as shown by the statistics of the Chicago Tribune, homicides in the country increased from 1256 to 3000. One year there were more than 10,000. In 15 years there were more than 132,192, while during the Civil War the number killed on the Union side was 101,000." Think of it, 31,000 or nearly one-third more people murdered in 15 years than during the Civil War, a year of bloody war. "During the last two years there have been 653 homicides in Cook County—Chicago's county—more than 300 were 'cold blooded murders.'" In London with its great population during the year there were 14 murders. Of these 14, four were committed suicide, four were executed and four were found insane. Compare these figures with Chicago's 400 'cold blooded murders and not an execution. . . . The real fact is that England hangs murderers and as a result does not have many to hang." S. T. WALKER.

MR. YOUNG IS NOT A REPUBLICAN.

Portland Lawyer Is Democratic Candidate for Circuit Judge. PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian today published a special dispatch from Salem, crediting me with having filed with the Secretary of State my petition for nomination for the office of Circuit Judge, Department No. 4, as a Republican. This report is erroneous in part only. I filed with the Secretary of State my declaration of intention to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Circuit Judge, Department No. 4, as a Democrat. I know of instances in Oregon where men previously recognized as Democrats have filed nomination for office on the Democratic ticket, but I have never known this to occur until at least six months after the candidate had changed his political affiliations by registering as a Republican. I have always registered as a Democrat, and in justice to myself, and in fairness to some Republican, good and true, who might be deterred from becoming a candidate for the public nomination for this office, if this report is not corrected, I beg you to give this letter space in your next issue. OGLESEY YOUNG.

The Cannon and the Train.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian today "A Subscriber asks the question as to the distance between a train and a bullet shot off from a cannon on the rear of the train, at the end of an hour. You state that 'A' is correct and the distance would be 60 miles. I wish you would explain how you came to this conclusion. It seems to the writer that the distance would be 60 miles traveled by the train plus the distance the bullet would travel before it lost its momentum, unless the writer of the original question means that the bullet keeps traveling the whole hour; then the answer would be 120 miles. A SUBSCRIBER.

Unwritten Contract.

RITTER, Or., Jan. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I. A leases a tract of land to B; B in consideration is to deliver one-third of all crops raised. A agrees to draw up a lease, but keeps putting it off from time to time. B takes peaceful possession of premises and commences work. Then A draws up a lease that contains articles not mentioned in the oral agreement. Can A compel B to sign said lease or vacate the premises? 2. A woman buys a tract of land. The deed was acknowledged before her husband, who is a notary public. Her mother signs as witness. Is the transaction according to law? A. J. W.

One Year in State.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me through paper how long must party be resident of state and county in applying for divorce, State of Oregon. CONSTANT READER.

Horses and Cattle.

NARROWS, Or., Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly give the number of horses in the United States at the present time, also the number of cattle? Are they increasing? What is the tariff on each? A READER.

Horses, 2,104,000; oxen, milch cows and other cattle, 69,080,000. The figures compiled for 1910 show an increase in horses over the preceding year of 400,000; an increase in milch cows of 81,000, a decrease in oxen and other cattle of 2,100,000. There is a tariff of 25% per cent ad valorem on cattle 1 year old or over valued at over \$14 per head; on horses valued at \$150 or less \$30 per head; horses valued at over \$150, 25 per cent ad valorem.

"A Bird in Hand."

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CAUSES OF BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

Fireman Tells How Water Glass May Sometimes Deceive. RAYMOND, Wash., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Having read the account in The Oregonian of the destruction of the steamer Sarah Dixon and having been a fireman and engineer at one time, I am quite interested in the cause and wonder if you would grant me space to give to the public and fellow workers in my calling a couple of experiences that might help prevent just such accidents as that to the Dixon.

The first incident occurred in 1902, while I was fireman on a small tug towing logs. The engineer, as soon as we were well on our way with the tow, would turn the engine room over to me and retire to his cabin to sleep or read. One morning after we were a couple of miles from our starting point, I noticed that the water in the gauge glass was getting higher with the pump feeding from the hot well still at the usual stroke, and I knew that by that time I should have been turning on the extra feed from the reserve tank and the condensation could not be sufficient. So, calling the chief to the engine-room, we commenced looking for the trouble. We first checked the gauge cocks and, taking out the glass, found that the glass had crystallized at the top and the gasket was pinched over the pump. We immediately stopped the engine to prevent the full steam pressure from holding the water at the proper level. As soon as possible we placed the gauge glass and opened the reserve tank, finding that we only had a half inch of water in sight.

Now, I suppose many engineers may know of this kind of trouble, but it is certainly a fact that if an explosion happened from this cause there is little chance to find it out after it has happened. At another time while firing a stationary boiler I noticed in blowing out the gauge glass when coming on steam that the gauge glass had cracked at the place it should be in the glass quick enough, so as the next day was Sunday and the boiler would be washed, I had a chance for inspection. I found that the 1 1/2-inch feed pipe passing through the front end of the boiler and for some distance up to the gauge cocks was so hard that a cold chisel would hardly cut it, and just barely room for a lead pencil to go through. A small piece of loose scale or slag had worked its way into a false indication, causing an explosion easily. These little incidents may help to keep the eternal vigilance of my fellow firemen and firemen, which is the price of safety, at the proper pitch. A. T. G.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS IN EXAMS.

Eighth Grade Tests Criticized by Albany Writer. ALBANY, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I should like a small space to record some criticisms of the questions which the State Superintendent's office prepares for the pupils in the eighth grade examinations. There is a tendency which I note under the present regime to make the questions, as far as possible, thought questions. To this I heartily agree, but there are many questions which are so purely questions of fact that an attempt to make thought questions of them would be a waste of time. For example, one of the questions in history in the recent examination was to tell when and where the first Continental Congress met, and further asked why it was called such. I have found no one who can tell this, as the text books do not mention it. The question in civics government asked: "A person in Europe could be convicted of treason for speaking ill of the government. Could this happen in America?" I could not find any text book which the pupil recall the first amendment to the Constitution, but many took their cue from the word treason and proceeded to explain why it constituted treason in the United States and pointed out that a person cannot be convicted on those grounds. How much is the pupil at fault in this? I am further asked why it was called such. I have found no one who can tell this, as the text books do not mention it.

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The Blue Coat.

We walk our beats protecting those Who throw it into us. They say "It's a devil's brute in blue. Aint he the grafting cuss?" We walk our beats in blazing heat Under the noonday sun. When others are asleep in bed Our work is just begun. When you're having a big blowout On legal holiday, Why, we're working double time 'And getting single pay. And when there's danger in the air And desperate work to do, You grab the telephone and say "Give us Main 212."

Who is it risks his life for you?

Who is it risks his life for you? 'Tis that "inhuman brute." And if one of us is murdered Playing some desperate game, Why, he's a devil's brute in blue. He's won immortal fame. But if he's spared he grows to be A human target then, For vile and slanderous statements Of narrow-minded men. Though slandering of uniforms That guard you while you sleep Is cheaper than the uniforms And they're starvation cheap. We are not all brutes and robbers—Our plaster saints are few—We're men with wives and families With feelings just like you. You are just "glass house" reformers So quit your hissing stones. Close up, you whited sepia-bags, You're tired with dead men's bones. —A Policeman.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

When a woman agent calls on you with a book you don't want and insists upon taking up your time when you are busy, it is then that you particularly regret that you don't live in a land of liberty and free speech.

The man who tries to get your money on a promise of 100 per cent interest is not the only one who tries to fool you. There is the gentleman who says that if you will elect him to Congress he will offer a tariff bill that will insure general prosperity.

If your wife and daughters should spend eight hours a day in your place of business you would become tired of seeing them around. And that's the way they feel when you stay around home too much.

Nothing would humiliate me so much as to be sued by a woman for breach of promise.

How many people have taken advantage of you in a mean, underhanded way? Others have lists, too. I sometimes fear that a good many who need Billy Sunday.

Some people haven't the "knack" of attending to their own business. If I should run for office, people would come from other states and swear in illegal votes for the pleasure of voting against me.

Most men will find time to do you a favor if you tell them you know they already have too much to do. After a man passes 50, it shocks him a little to be called by his first name.

A certain public man never speaks that he does not say something disagreeable to the man following him. If I should run for office, people would come from other states and swear in illegal votes for the pleasure of voting against me.

The louder a man talks the less do I care to dispute what he says.

Oregon Savings Deposits.

PORTLAND, Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me whether or not unpaid deposit accounts in the Oregon Savings Bank have an value. A friend in a small town in Washington sent me recently three of these bank books, representing deposits made by his children in 1904, and I am unable to find anyone who seems to know anything definite about the affairs of this institution.

Was each depositor entitled to a notice by mail of the closing of the account, or was it intended that only those who were "Johnny on the spot" should share in the distribution of the funds? ENQUIRER.

If the person holding the bank books referred to in the above communication will take the matter up by writing Thomas A. Clark, receiver, the accounts will receive immediate attention, according to A. E. Clark, attorney for the receiver, Mr. Clark, however, does not say what, if anything, the accounts are worth.

Depositors in the Oregon Trust & Savings Bank were supposed to file their claims with the receiver. They were not entitled to notice by mail.

Date of Primaries.

MORO, Or., Jan. 22.—(To the Editor.)—First: On what day in April of this year will the primary election be held? Second: Please give the last day in which a candidate can file his petition with the County Clerk, so as to get his name on the ballot. J. O. SMYTHE.

Second—Write to Secretary of State for 1912 memorandum of election laws.

The Oregonian Reaches All Classes

The Banker—the Lawyer—the Business Man—the Mechanic—the Clerk. And their families. A larger part of the entire circulation of The Oregonian is in Portland. The Oregonian has a great big city circulation. It reaches the homes. Its advertising columns carry the very latest business news of the day before. Just as its news columns give you the news of the world up to within a few hours of the time you receive the paper at your home in the morning. The Oregonian stands alone as a business message-carrying medium. There is no other single sales force in the City of Portland that can compete on a dollars and cents result-producing basis. If your business message to the homes of Portland appear in its columns, you know, if your announcement is not there you are overlooking a business opportunity, AND A BIG ONE.