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Portland, Thursday, Feb. 15, 1912.

MONOPOLY IS LIFE OF TRUSTS.

There is a point beyond which it is impossible for a great trust combination, commonly called a trust, to succeed unless it has the power of monopoly. This opinion was expressed by Louis D. Brandeis at the inquiry held by the Senate committee on interstate commerce.

Success depends upon the power of one man at the head of an industry to switch every detail of its business to efficiency in the cheapest of production and excellence of the product.

The one great inefficiency in efficiency is the necessity of outdoing one's competitors in the cheapness of production and excellence of the product.

The necessary conclusion is that, when industrial and trade combinations grow beyond the directing power of one man, and prove successful, their success is due less to any increased efficiency than to their monopolistic power.

Woodrow Wilson's speech at the Irons Club in Portland, Oregon, was mainly a restatement of generally recognized truths.

The Republican party is sadly weakened; it has lost its way, says Wilson, and has become extensively broken, and is fast becoming reunited.

The Democratic party has more need of Wilson's tender ministrations in helping the country than it does of the Bryan and Underwood factions.

"We look to the young men to bring about these reforms by the application of progressive principles," is another of Dr. Wilson's wise remarks.

who talk of progress in indefinite terms obstruct his work. Whenever those praters of progress get down to particulars, we find that Taft is doing or trying to do the very things they say should be done and that they are standing in the way. But they are chary of definitions, lest they either show their weakness or give an unintentional endorsement to their opponents.

THAT PILGRIMAGE TO SALEM.

The "committee" will try to knock out the Presidential primaries. The praiser of Mr. Taft should keep his feet from the ground.

This little fling is directed at the committee sent by the Republican State Central Committee to Salem to investigate the legal status of that section of the Presidential primary preference law which limits the choice of the voter to one delegate to the National convention, and to one candidate for Presidential Elector.

There is, and there should be, no attack on the Presidential preference primary law; there is no sentiment supporting any effort or desire to evade its clear and proper intent.

Does our urbane contemporary, which is haunted by the ghost of the dead-and-buried assembly, think that a political managing committee should be denied the right to refer any question about which it is in doubt to the Supreme Court?

RURAL VIEW OF ROAD MOVEMENT.

The statement that everybody is in favor of good roads is becoming a trite remark. It has lost none of its truth, however, as a result of excited charges that he who opposes those particular road bills known as the state-wide high finance scheme is blocking highway improvement and general state progress.

The slight chance that the state-wide bills have of success at the polls is perhaps the greatest to be had by any candidate, particularly to him who is also blind to the inequalities of the measures themselves.

The two bills offered by the State Grange are worth considering. These bills create the office of State Highway Engineer, but he is to be only an advisory officer in acting upon the plans of beginning and placing of each road, the amount of money to be expended and the kind of material to be used thereon are to be determined at a conference of delegates representing each road district in the county.

The Grange has also adopted a political platform, the most extensive and every other proponent of a similar law might well copy. The Grange bills are published before they are circulated for signatures.

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by an academic discussion of the value of roads nor encouraged by a spirit of take-this-or-nothing. Let us hear from the state-wide committee some logical reason for taxing Multnomah County \$17,000,000 more than it receives for roads or for making the Governor highway director and individual disbursement of \$40,000,000.

AN IMPENDING CONFLICT.

Some persons now on earth may live to witness a struggle for existence between Latin and Greek in our colleges. Both languages cannot be taught to most students. An increasing number will have neither.

Greek is a more beautiful tongue than Latin. Its vocabulary is richer and its literature incomparably greater. Moreover, most of our ideas on science and philosophy are derived from Plato and his countrymen, while the elementary concepts of our creeds can be traced back to the sacred sources of Greek life.

Still, we did not get these valuable ideas from Athens directly. They came to us by way of Rome and they were conveyed by means of the Latin language.

It is a sad fact that the Greek of our day is not the Greek of the ancients. It is a language of the masses, and its use is confined to the masses.

An example of the species of economy practiced by the trusts is the waste by the steel trust of all the by-products of coke manufacture.

MEMORY OF GREENBACK DAYS.

Only his death could remind the majority of the present generation that General James B. Weaver ever lived. To men of middle life he was a memory of the days of Greenbackism and Populism.

Mrs. Springer's \$2,000,000 is a considerable sum of money, but it will not last long if it is spent as she is spending it.

BETTER BIDE A WEE.

The excess of zeal without discretion is detrimental to any cause. The friends of woman suffrage should consider this, and not attempt to push the political rights of woman in advance of the popular sentiment along what may be called the higher political and judicial lines.

As might be expected, Darrow's attorneys have begun to interpose technicalities. Cooper Morris, whose incarceration is a joke, has returned to his retreat.

Remember the Maine! She floats today after a lapse of fourteen years. Welcome, Els! Arizona.

There is, however, a grave question as to the preparedness of any woman for the grave duties and responsibilities of such position.

STARS AND STAR-MAKERS.

By Leone Cass Beer.

Alice Fleming, who is remembered as leading woman with the Baker stock company last Fall, and who suddenly terminated her engagement (at least her theatrical engagement), by eloping to Oregon City, that mecca of the undismayed, to become Mrs. C. E. Everett, is going back on the stage.

It may be well to remember in this connection that the question of woman suffrage is still pending in many states of the Union, including our own.

The Saturday Evening Post is usually sane except when an opportunity arises to give President Taft a rap. It accuses him of pardoning Morse only "because his crime was of the general nature of the crime of the great majority of the people."

Particulars of the frustrated elopement of Harry Cort, son of John Cort, the theatrical magnate of the Pacific Coast, are leaking into the press in small quantities.

THE PRIME REQUISITE.

I met a literary chap Who raised a sad and doleful roar; "The times are out of joint," he cried, "By way of showing he was sore;" "Although with burning words I write, My style never came to light; And I must live, while still I hope, By writing ads for yeast and soap."

Pauline Lord, who has a prominent role in Marion Fairfax new play, "The Theater," at the Hotel de Ville, is a niece of the late Governor Lord, of this state.

MINNETTE BARRETT.

Minnette Barrett, a Portland girl who has won recognition throughout the East for her histrionic ability, is rehearsing for a big role in a new playlet by William de Mille, of which Florence Nash is to be leading woman.

The following anecdote, of which St. Peter must hold first knowledge, comes by way of the Dramatic Mirror and should prove especially interesting to those of us who are reminded when we read of Blanche Bates that she is a Portlander.

Claw & Erlanger are sending us that colorful musical comedy, "The Pink Lady," which is no relation to "The Red Widow" or "The Red Rose."

TEST IS PROPOSED TO SERMONS.

Why Not Apply Some Criticism to Preachers as to Healers?

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—The recent controversy over the Mirror and the 7th Street has the following remarks upon the political condition of Oregon. They do not present an overdrawn picture.

One phase of it might be capable of a little elucidation, however. In an endeavor to find Christ's unperished commands, one church heals the sick with noticeable success, notwithstanding many other churches denounce the practice, and emphatically aver it is not of Christ. If healing is not of Christ, could it not with equal propriety be asserted that the characteristic present-day sermons are likewise not of Christ?

When contentions like these are brought to the attention of the pulpit, there might be some excuse if we try to find a little balm in the following words of Tom Moore:

Disturbing the Peace. LA GRANDE, Ore., Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Having studied Judge Tawell's definition of the word "scab," and being a disinterested person concerned in it, I request from you a printed copy of the order in the following sentence: "Disturbing the peace." Has a man, working for a living, the rights of an American citizen, even if working for the Harman system as things now stand? Have the strikers a right to harass him and call him vile names?

Train Record: 107 Miles, 107 Minutes. Baltimore American. WILLIAM McADOO, who built the Hudson River tunnels, recently made what is said to have been a record run in a special train on the Southern Railroad, covering the 107 miles from Charlotte, N. C., to Greenville in 107 minutes.

COUNTRY TOWN SAYINGS BY ED HOWE.

You may usually make a pretty good guess at the problems of life. If you habitually carry a red flag, and see a mad bull charging, you may guess almost with certainty what will happen next.

When the devil is to pay in some other man's affairs, most of us are more pleased than sympathetic.

Every man is hen-pecked in his wedding. Men are clever as cooks, milliners and dressmakers, but women know more about the management of a wedding.

Those who are temporarily out of it, can give love some mighty hard slams.

No woman thinks a man knows anything about the delicate art of making a home.

When a man has a photograph taken, the more it looks like him the less he likes it.

Success is fair; when a man wins success he is usually entitled to it. But fame is a fickle goddess; some men who have made a name should have had a whipping instead.

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On the other hand, if you want to buy something, the chances are that there is some one who has just what you are looking for. And for some reason or other he is willing to sell at a sacrifice. There is your opportunity to purchase what you want at a minimum price.