The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20.

ROOSEVELT'S NEW AND OLD FRIENDS.

Four years ago Theodore Roosevelt was looked up to by all the men of prestige and influence in this country as first among them. He was first among statesmen, patriots, moral teachers. He had the unswerving support of almost every Republican newspaper of every shade of opinion, and many Democratic newspapers gave him frequent commendation. Every good cause turned to him for indorsement. The weight of public opinion behind him in every class of the community was so great that it was sufficient to enable him to break down opposition of the most powerful vested interests to the measures he recommended.

Had he been content to rest on the laurels he had won, to stand by his pledge and not to seek a third term, he might have remained the most honored and influential private citizen of the republic. His ambition for a third term has alienated from him statesmen, authors, editors, lawyers, jurists, educators, until no man of the first rank in any calling stands behind him, and hardly half a dozen newspapers of importance have indorsed him.

This loss of influence is made the more evident by the character of his present supporters. The chairman of his committee is Senator Dixon, of Montana, whose sole claim to distinction is his insurgency. Frank Knox, the vice-chairman, publishes a country newspaper in Michigan and is a business associate of Governor Osborn, whose renomination is violently opposed by a large proportion of his own party. Other members are: William L. Ward, Republican boss of Westchester County, New York, and ex-member of the old guard, who has a personal grievance against Taft; Cecil Lyon, of Texas, the state which gives the largest Democratic majorities in the country; Walter F. Brown, an Ohio machine politician whose antagonism to Taft is said to be due to prosecution of certain trusts; Truman H. Newberry, of Detroit, a lame duck Congressman who served for a few months as Roosevelt's Secretary of the Navy. Add to these Pinchot and Garfield, both men with a "grouch," and we have a list of the leading Roosevelt boosters.

The men of ability and patriotism, whose powers of mind and character have brought them to the front, are no longer found among the Roosevelt forces. Their place has been taken by a motley crew of third-rate politicians and disgruntled officeseekers, who hang to Roosevelt's coattails in the hope that he will drag them into prominence and power.

WRITERS AND FARMERS.

"It makes me tired to read these 'back to the farm' articles appearing in the newspapers these days. They are written by men who know nothing about farm conditions. It is all very will to sit at a desk in a comfortable office in the city and tell the farmer what he ought to do; the doing of it is quite a different matter. Why don't these writers try a little of their own medicine by going 'back to the farm' themselves?"

A landowner of more than ordinary intelligence was heard to speak as above a few days ago. The ideas expressed are more than likely grounded in more than one farmer's mind. It is part and parcel of the old theory that "book farming" is a mere fad and not practicable to follow.

There is very little writing actually done in the plow or harvest field, no plowing or harvesting is done in comfortable city offices. Some of our best farmers write for the press; many writers plow and plant and reap. The "back to the farm" movement was started and is being urged on by such men and students of agriculture, and not by people who know nothing about farm conditions. To say that people ignorant of what constitutes good conditions on the farm are responsible for the thousands of columns yearly written about how to better these conditions is far from the truth.

Once in a great while one finds a practical farmer who uses his spare time with his pen. Universally these are among the foremost men in the "back to the farm" propaganda, ably seconded by writers who are students of farm topics. They are persons who more than likely received their early training on a farm. The man who made the remarks first quoted, and all who agree with him, would be surprised to go through the editorial and reportorial rooms of a great newspaper and find that the majority of those responsible for the daily copy were country born.

It must have been many, many years ago—surely before our grandfathers were born, perhaps generations before that—when "book farming" came into vogue practically as we use the term today. Of course in the early days there were no such teachers as now. There were no great schools like our O. A. C., and thousands of others resembling that. But generations and generations ago students of farm conditions tried to better those conditions and began to write about them, both in the press and in books.

Many people followed the advice of these writers, became "book farmers," and for at least three or four generations it has been these "book farmers" and their advisers who have brought agriculture up from what it used to be, a by-word and jest, to its present high and profitable condition. In doing this our rural land values have more than kept pace with the increase of urban values. These values will go on increasing just as rapidly as scientific methods which make farm conditions better prevail.

One of the best illustrations to confound and confuse those who sneer at the "back to the farm" movement and the "book farmer" is the advancement the apple growers of the Northwest have made in their pursuit. Science, applied science, has brought the prices of our apples up from almost nothing to an average of perhaps well over a dollar a bushel, with the demand and price still increasing. Through our scientific methods we are now able to produce, and do produce, the best apples grown in the world. It all came through "book horticulture," if the term may be changed to that. Much of this emanated from the "comfortable office in the city," written by the class of people at whom the speaker mentioned sneered.

The advancement made in all agricultural pursuits, including animal industries, during the past are nothing to what will be done during the next decade. Very much of this will be the result of the publicity given through the newspapers, through papers like The Oregonian, that stand for better conditions in all walks of life, and advocate them intelligently and persistently.

SAN FRANCISCO.

California is a wonderful state, with a remarkable people. San Francisco is California's metropolis, which is fitting, for San Francisco is the most amazing city in the world. It is the same San Francisco that it has been for half a century, with a buoyant, optimistic, hearty, enterprising, hospitable people; yet it is a different San Francisco from the San Francisco of six years ago in its greater symmetry, beauty, splendor. The visitor who returns today after ten years' absence could not, unless he were told, know that the city had in the interim been completely devastated by wreck and fire. He would see only that there is today a finer and greater San Francisco, with a people alert, united, generous, prosperous and ambitious.

The recent excursion of representative Oregon people to San Francisco was an event of great significance and value to both states. It was the first notable demonstration by any state of the extent and spirit of the general interest in the great Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915; and it greatly stimulated the courage and enthusiasm of San Francisco in its magnificent project.

If Oregon's visit was good for San Francisco and California, it was even better for Oregon, for it is clear now that the best at the exposition is to be given to Oregon.

The excursion was a happy inspiration with a most beneficent consummation. Both states feel better that their representative citizens have fraternized on such terms of amity, good will and mutual appreciation.

OREGON WOMEN AND MRS. PANKHURST.

There is no relation whatever between the window-smashing outbreaks of the British suffragettes and the agitation for woman suffrage in Oregon. The women who are promoting this reform do not intend to break anybody's windows. Nothing of the kind ever has been done here or ever will be. Our local women are not to blame for the indiscretions of their British sisters any more than our male voters are responsible for the excesses of the anti-homerulers in Ireland.

The policy of the London suffragettes was not devised in this state. Nobody here was consulted when window-smashing was fixed upon as a desirable expedient. Some Oregon women think it may forward the cause of suffrage in England. The great majority do not see how it can possibly do so. Men are similarly divided in opinion. But because an Oregon male voter believes that Mrs. Pankhurst's pranks will advance the cause of the London suffragettes are we bound to conclude that he will presently arm himself with a cartload of bricks and descend upon the plate glass of the Portland department stores? If men are in no danger of doing such deeds, why should we suppose that women are?

British and American politics are two totally different things. Methods which succeed brilliantly across the water would never accomplish anything here. On the other hand our ways of managing politics would be useless in England. We may approve of the British course as an excellent thing in its own land, while at the same time we acknowledge its futility here. In the same way we may find devices most helpful here which would be nothing better than a hindrance to Englishmen.

There is nothing fair in any attempt to saddle the Oregon suffrage movement with the discredit of the Pankhurst riots in London. The British women have one problem. The Oregon women have another, and between the two there is no resemblance. Both want the right to vote, but how to get that right is a question which must be settled one way here and another way in Great Britain. If American women had ever shown the faintest disposition to resort to violence there might be some semblance of justice in twitting them with Mrs. Pankhurst.

THE RACE FOR NAVAL SUPREMACY.

Relations between Britain and Germany are so strained that any allusion by a statesman of one country to the affairs of the other immediately sets up irritation. Thus Mr. Churchill's remarks about Germany in his speech on the British naval programme seem to have undone much of the good accomplished by Lord Haldane on his pacific mission. His admission that Britain's building programme will be guided by that of Germany—that she must augment construction to meet that of her rival, and that she will reduce construction whenever Germany does so—is met by the inspired Cologne Gazette with the sharp rejoinder that each nation must decide for itself what increase to make in its navy.

Apparently financial exhaustion alone will end this insane race for naval supremacy. Protest in Germany against the burden it imposes is expressed in the great increase in the strength of the Socialists in the Reichstag and in the resignation of the Secretary of the Treasury. That official refuses to become a party to the piling up of debt to make good annual deficits, which, he sees, can only aggravate the evil it is intended to cure, since it will increase the annual expenses by the amount of the added interest without any added revenue.

While Britain has not to face a deficit, she is carrying a load of taxation to pay for her new Socialist devices which makes her people groan under its weight. The annual outgo for old age pensions far exceeds the estimate, and there is no reason to expect any better result from the workmen's insurance scheme. There is strong probability that, when the Irish home rule bill is introduced, it will be found to provide for a substantial payment from the imperial treasury to start the new Irish government on its way.

The fact must inevitably be driven home to the minds of both nations that they cannot indefinitely expand their expenditures for internal reform and for foreign war at the same time. After the Germans recover from their first irritation at Mr. Churchill's words, they may recognize that the wisest course for them is to grasp the olive branch held out by Lord Haldane, settle all existing differences by the inexpensive and bloodless methods of diplomacy and arrange a joint programme for commercial and colonial expansion which will not cramp their activities but which will avoid friction.

WHERE TAFT STANDS.

The men who have been accusing President Taft of avoiding a Presidential preference primary through fear of an adverse result now have their answer. He favors such a primary, provided it is surrounded by the safeguards of the law; but he opposes it as a mere voluntary act of the party managers. Unless the primaries are established by law with strict regulations for their conduct, with officers sworn to observve those regulations and liable to punishment for fraud, they will have all the vices of the old ballot-box stuffing, fraud-soaked system and none of the virtues of the new system. To such a system not only Mr. Taft, but all men who love fair play are opposed.

If those who clamor for Presidential primaries in all states will call upon their Legislatures to establish them with proper safeguards for a true expression of the preference of the majority in each party, the President and all his supporters will join in the call. It is significant of the insincerity of this clamor that it is raised in a year when many State Legislatures do not meet and at a time of the year when some of those which do meet have already adjourned. This fact justifies the suspicion that the call for Presidential primaries is a demagogic afterthought, a mere bluff, the makers of which will be deeply disappointed now that the bluff is called.

Mr. Taft is willing to submit to a test of strength but he insists that the law shall provide for a fair test, not a bogus test the result of which may have been fixed or colored by an invasion of voters from the opposite party. The reception with which Colonel Roosevelt's candidacy has met gives Taft every reason for confidence as to the result of such a test. The Colonel's entry into the field has added strength to the Taft instead of to the insurgent forces, as was fondly hoped. It has caused a stampede, but to Taft instead of to the Colonel. Under such conditions the President has every reason to welcome an appeal direct to the voters of his party, provided that a direct Presidential primary law secures him the square deal of which his rival is such a voluble apostle.

THE AGITATOR.

Socialism is a word of somewhat uncertain meaning. Even among those who profess to advocate it, there is more or less difference of opinion as to what we should have if the "revolution" were accomplished tomorrow. Some say the only change would be the abolishment of the wage system. Others would destroy every existing institution. Between these extremes there are all shades of opinion. The socialism of Milwaukee is a very different article from that of Oakland, Cal., and both types are unlike our Portland species. Milwaukee derives its radical ideas pretty extensively from Germany. The leaders of the socialist movement in that city are mainly immigrants from the Fatherland, or their children, and many of the followers hail from the same source. Hence in Milwaukee we may expect to see a type of socialism resembling that which has become so powerful in Germany. This is essentially constructive in its nature and works toward a definite programme. It has passed the primitive stage where it contented itself with fault-finding. It has undertaken to think out and apply far-reaching remedies to the ills which afflict German society.

In fact German socialism resembles what we call "progressiveness" in the United States. Its efforts are addressed to the accomplishment of certain perfectly reasonable reforms. It differs strikingly from our Portland variety of soapbox socialism, which has no apparent purpose except to use bad language and stir up aimless passion. To be specific, the German socialists advocate a sweeping reform of the electoral laws. These laws remain the same as they were forty years ago. The country has not been redistricted since Bismarck's time. Meanwhile the cities have grown rapidly with the result that very often a dozen or twenty votes in such a place as Berlin count for no more than a single vote in a rural constituency. This is a gross injustice and the German socialists are agitating for its correction.

Contrast their work with the spirit of our local agitators who preach from their foaming soapboxes that no good has ever been accomplished by legislation and that there is no hope for the betterment of conditions through politics. The German socialists act through the ballot alone. Their propaganda is moderate and peaceable and the late election proved that it is successful to a remarkable degree. Our Portland agitators of the I. W. W. stamp turn away from politics and the ballot and place their hope in what they call "direct action." This means strikes, industrial war, dynamite and "sabotage." The last term comes from France and signifies the indiscriminate destruction of property. These are the means by which the local agitators say openly that they expect to bring about "the revolution." But when they are asked what changes they have in mind they can only answer with vague fustian illuminated by profane oaths. They shriek for a "revolution" without knowing what they would revolutionize or why they would do it.

It may be instructive to notice another instance of the contrast between the socialism of Germay and that of the Portland I. W. W. The Germans are intensely interested in education. Much of their effort is directed toward the control of the public schools and the general improvement of instruction. There is a great deal of effort making in Portland and Oregon for the betterment of the schools, but the I. W. W. orators take no interest in it. Do we ever hear one of them pleading for industrial education? Do they care a straw for the modernization of the curriculum of the city high schools? Do they know the actual condition of the public schools and the crying need there is for improvement? If they do know anything about these subjects, they keep their knowledge most faithfully to themselves. Yet who is more concerned with the public schools than the great working class for whom the I. W. W. orators profess to speak? While these frenzied trouble-breeders rave on their soapboxes without any better purpose in mind than to stir up strife, the actual constructive work of reform is being carried on in this city and throughout the country by other men.

What have the Socialists contributed to the cause of commission government in Portland? What have they done toward the enforcement of pure-food laws? What have they had to say about a more healthful and beautiful city? Not a solitary word. The soapbox orators who nightly pour forth their swelling flood of muddy eloquence on the streets are not interested in these practical questions. They are mere hell-raisers. They are theorists of the most visionary and ineffective kind. There is not a single practical reform which they can lay their fingers upon and declare that they have favored it.

Speak to an I. W. W. agitator about the tariff and he will reply that "the working class are not interested in the tariff." Similarly he will tell you that the working class are not interested in any taxes, or in the cost of living, or direct primaries, or commission government, or higher wages. What under heaven are they interested in, then? Nothing but the "revolution." When you ask what the revolution means the orator cannot tell. Thus these agitators spin round and round in a vicious circle of purposeless invective. They deal not in reason, but in profanity and abuse. They want to tear down every institution of society without the slightest thought of replacing them by anything better.

Who ever heard an I. W. W. orator make a suggestion for any definite improvement? Their only thought is to destroy. Their rage for destruction does not stop with institutions and property. They are just as ruthless with reputations. No man in public life is spared by them. La Follette, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Bryan, are all doomed with indelible villainy. Not one of these statesmen ever had a good purpose or an honest thought. Addresssed to reasonable people, this sort of oratory would not be dangerous, but it is not addressed to reasonable people. The men to whom the soapbox orator speaks are usually ignorant, often miserably poor and sometimes hungry. They feel vaguely that there is something wrong with the world and would gladly find a remedy for the ills of life.

The I. W. W. agitator emphasizes the ills, but has nothing to say about a remedy. In fact his doctrine is that there is no remedy. Therefore let us pile up the whole structure of society in indiscriminate wreck and ruin. The passions he excites in his hearers are dangerous, not so much to the privileged class as to the cause of reform. The worst enemy to the man who would really make things better for the "under dog" is the reckless soapbox orator.

The effect of the series of revolutions in Mexico is reflected in the decrease of our exports to that country by about 20 per cent in the year 1911, though our exports to South America increased 25 per cent in the last seven months of that year. Imports from Mexico also show a slight decrease. The Mexicans are so busy fighting that their supply of money with which to buy our goods is running low. The decrease in Mexico's imports is general, having been 17 per cent from all other countries than the United States. How great an interest we have in the condition of that republic is evident from the fact that about 55 per cent of its imports come from, and about 77 per cent of its exports come to, this country.

If Germany and England should mutually agree each to destroy two battleships a year their relative naval strength would remain unaltered while the taxpayers in both countries would be relieved of a burden which is becoming unendurable. An ideal condition would be attained when Germany had one ship and England two. The British could then still boast that their fleet was twice as big as their enemy's, but the farce would be comparatively inexpensive.

The mill operatives of all New England profit by the vicarious sufferings of the Lawrence strikers. A bitter strike, which turns on the searchlight of public opinion, is the only means of bringing some of our tariff-bloated manufacturers to reason.

North Idaho has the glory of the livestock show. Not every locality in the Pacific Northwest can raise a yearling that will bring $1.20 a pound, but all can produce beef that will taste just as good.

The view of the English woman suffrage issue taken by Dr. Jessie Murray brings it to the old question of bread and butter. She threatens to use bombs to secure bread.

In proposing a 30,000-ton battleship with eight 15-inch guns, the Navy Department says to Britain and Germany: "I see you and go you one better."

Deposits in Oregon banks total over $116,000,000 this Spring, for the benefit of the farmer and the stockgrower who know their business.

Florence and the country along the coastline of Lane would be carved into a new county. Cottage Grove can tell them how to do it.

Considering the awful crimes of the Humphrys brothers, can Governor West be of the same opinion against capital punishment?

Towns that close the picture shows on Sunday are in danger of sending their young people to amusement much worse.

With every sawmill closed in Aberdeen decent folk there will realize the lack of merit in I. W. W. agitation.

CHURCH UNITY IS SURE TO COME

Exact Form Uncertain but Trend of Christian Thought Is That Way.

PORTLAND, March 18.—(To the Editor.)—Agreement of the Christian denominations, Methodist, Presbyterian and the Congregational—virtually one in Christian faith—should not be considered an impossible achievement. Few, and very few, essential items necessary to constitute Christian faith with range and verge for free opinion, now chartcterize each of these Christian churches; and it is believed they are willing for the sake of securing Christian unity to abandon any traditional laws or usages, not involving essential truth, if thereby the healing of divisions may be promoted. The principal difficulty or difference of opinion, will be over the kind and form of unity considered practicable. This is likely to come from dignitaries holding positions in these ecclesiastical bodies.

But against all imaginary objections the great body of Christian men and women composing these three churches, and others as well, hold a distinct willingness to relinquish minor considerations for the sake of a more perfect co-ordination of religious forces, in which sympathy shall banish antipathy and alienation.

There can be no mistaking the fact, the divine spirit is moving the hearts of men in all parts of the world toward a closer working fellowship. A happy sense of spiritual unity spreads and deepens among the branches of Christ's family.

The man must be dull of sight who does not see along the shore a gulf stream warming chilly seas, melting icebergs and making frozen coasts bloom with Summer. This current, vital in its effect, is an outflow from the heart of him who prayed that his children might be one. This tide of fraternal feeling is daily becoming more pronounced and will break the ecclesiastical dikes somewhere and flow freely and far over fields which have long enough been shut up and guarded by misconception and misunderstanding.

The final form results may take cannot now be told, nor the rate at which events will move, for prejudice of the clerical sort is most stubborn. But results, actual, valuable and practicable, are as sure as the rising of the sun in the eastern sky.

C. E. CLINE.

IS GOVERNOR WITH THE PEOPLE?

Writer Declares Action on Morris Case Will Reveal True Sympathy.

PORTLAND, March 18.—(To the Editor.)—A recent news item from San Francisco says Governor West scornfully refused to don a "silk" hat on the occasion of the dedication of the Oregon site of the Pan-American-Pacific Exposition, and quotes him as saying that he represents the "common" people of Oregon, and that he will never wear a "silk" hat.

Some say the Governor only intended this as "fodder" for his "cow county" constituents, while others say 'tis but another "link" in his chain of democratic principles. These latter recall his reference to the "strawticks" that he slept on in his boyhood days, included in his interview some months ago, justly condemning same, then in use at Baby Home. Again they recall his recent "soapbox" oration at Seventh and Washington streets, wherein he pleaded for his pet road measures, and again took the people into his confidence by saying that he never had and never expected to have any money; that save for the monthly grocer's and butcher's bills he gave the rest away. No doubt he forgot all about his hop ranches.

These and similar glimpses given us from time to time by the Governor into his life of "struggle with poverty," some say, liken him to the immortal Lincoln. As to Lincoln, "the world will little note nor long remember" what he wore here, "but it can never forget what he did here." Be it "Stetson" or "Gordon," silk or sombrero, let us go below its band to discover whether or not its wearer be a real emulator of the beloved Lincoln. In a few days Governor West will be called upon to pardon or parole W. Cooper Morris, an ex-banker convict of the "high-brow" class. Friends of Morris, official and otherwise, have petitioned the Governor in his behalf. No one denies that he is guilty. The strongest argument they offer is the silly plea that the "others in the conspiracy" escaped conviction, hence he should be turned loose. Of course they talk of his broken health, for, like Morse, Ruef, et al., he cannot stand confinement. No "high-brow" can; it was only intended for the poor devil. Hundreds of "common" fellows have died in penal institutions, but heaven forbid that a "high-brow" ever should!

The action Governor West takes in this matter will speak stronger than words whether or not he represents the common people of Oregon. Will he cast his lot with the railsplitter or the hairsplitter?

MART SLOAN.

Mayor Blamed for Conditions.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—The Mayor of this city has proven that he is no more than an irresponsible weakling, wholly incapable of taking the initiative in any question that is of concern to the public.

By his extreme carelessness and indifference, he has allowed this organization of lawlessness, known as the I. W. W., to root itself in this city, to voice anarchist sentiments on the street, openly to defy the law and order and peace of this city. His open refusal to come out and aid the citizens of this city in getting rid of this element marks him as the one mistake in the last election.

In all probabilities, in getting rid of this body of lawless men, trouble will follow, and I predict that that trouble will be serious. The citizens have tolerated the abuses of the I. W. W. long enough, and it is time that they act; for with the Mayor that we have, we can expect nothing.

Whatever the trouble that may follow, let the blame be where it belongs—upon the Mayor.

W. R. HAZZARD.

Diverce and Remarriage.

RAINIER, Or., March 17.—(To the Editor.)—1. In case a divorce is secured by default and a second marriage occurs before six months have elapsed will it be binding?

2. Where can I get definite information on this subject. My attorney claims that the six months are not necessary in case of a default.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Lawyers do not seem to agree as to the legality of a marriage entered into within six months after default divorce is granted one of the parties. It would be well for all divorced persons to curb love's yearnings for six months or until the Supreme Court passes directly on the question.

Tin in United States.

PORTLAND, March 18.—(To the Editor.)—Are there any tin mines in the United States, and where?

A READER.

Tin is not mined on a commercial scale anywhere in the United States although deposits exist. The most promising of the latter is in Alaska.

By Experience.

DALLAS, Or., March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly tell me how to secure the best training in journalism?

A READER.

CANDIDATES AND PROPOSED LAWS

Laws, Bond Schemes, Indemnity, Prevention of Usury, Etc., Discussed.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Candidates for the Legislature are offering themselves in such large numbers that the phrase "shoo fly" is coming again into vogue. Why should they not express themselves unequivocally as to whether or not they are favorable to "a blue sky" law such as they have in Kansas, in which no stock, bond or other exploitation can offer its schemes to the people of that state until it has been licensed so to do? Under the operation of this law, out of 600 applicants only 22 were able to satisfy the commission of their honest character and were permitted to do business.

Next comes the bad citizen who, under pretense of brokerage commission or agency, collects as high as 200 per cent for small loans to poor people. This infamy exists all over the state. The sudden spasm to correct it here, after having prodigiously stirred a few philanthropists, seems to have subsided, as a virtuous determination cannot long stand pressure, just as Vesuvious only erupts occasionally. In the meantime the City Council could squelch it in this city by the vigorous enforcement of a seven-line ordinance—provided it contained an imprisonment clause.

A third desirable enactment should be the death and accident idemnity, now a law in the State of Washington. The unfortunate employe is entitled to every favorable consideration in compensation for his hurt, but it should be adjusted by a commission. At present the lawyer is the largest factor in every accident, and he should be entirely eliminated as a useless and undesirable encumberment. The Washington law makes it so, and we need it. As the law exists here today it is a perilous proposition for anyone to hire a lawyer for any purpose. The most frivolous cause is made, or can be made, the pretext for a suit for damage, and with cormorant lawyers in abundance to undertake any kind of a suit, even the farmer imperils his farm if the hired man is bitten by the old sow, because of his meddlesomeness with her new-born family. Every hurt should be compensated for in fairness, but except in cases of extraordinary disregard of reasonable precaution on the part of the employer, the state should assume the loss out of a fund collected as a tax, as now prevails in the State of Washington. I think we should hear from the candidates.

C. P. CHURCH.

BULL ELK SHIPMENT NOT FIRST

Writer Tells of Capturing Game as a Business.

PORTLAND, Or., March 15.—(To the Editor.)—In today's Oregonian I read with interest an account of the triumphant entry into Oregon of a carload of elk from St. Anthony, Idaho, also the statement that it was the only full grown wild bull elk ever shipped. Allow me to say that Vic G. Smith, of Montana, who is visiting with his brother-in-law, C. M. Campbell, at 272 Montgomery street, owned a large game ranch at Henry's Lake, Idaho, a few years ago, and Mr. Smith conceived the idea of capturing the elk full grown, and in the five years that he owned the game ranch he and his partner, on snow shoes, caught 207 full grown elk and shipped them all over the country. Two carloads of large elk they shipped to Austin Corbin, the multimillionaire of New York, to his game preserve in New Hampshire. Two years afterward Mr. Corbin, with his coachman, entered the preserve grounds with a coach, and one of the large wild bulls that were shipped by Mr. Smith attempted to gore the nigh coach horse, which threw the team in a fright and away they ran, overturning the coach and killing both Mr. Corbin and the driver. I worked on Mr. Smith's game preserve for three wears and assisted him in catching the elk, also the sheep and moose. At that time elk cows brought $85 per head, while the bulls were worth only $50.

Mr. Smith had as a partner a broncho rider named Dick Rock. On their ranch they had a dozen fullblood buffalo. One day Rock attempted to ride one of the large buffalo bulls named "Teddy" (after Mr. T. Roosevelt, who hunted buffalo with Mr. Smith in 1883 on the Cannon Ball River, in Dakota), and after ten minutes of stiff pitching, the buffalo succeeded in throwing Rock off his back and gored him to death.

B. A. SIMMONS.

Influence of the Comma.

SALEM, Or., March 17.—(To the Editor.)—In a discussion as to the effect upon the meaning of different sentences by the insertion of commas, the following sentence was given as an illustration, which resulted in our not being able to agree as to the meaning of the same:

1. You are right and I am wrong as you always are.

2. You are right and I am wrong, as you always are.

The writer contends that the insertion of the comma as written above signifies that the clause "as you always are" is out of its natural order, and therefore modifies the first clause in the sentence: "You are right," while as written in the first instance there is nothing to indicate that the clause has been thrown out of its natural order, and should be assumed to modify the clause which it follows: "I am wrong."

Through the medium of your valuable paper, would you kindly set us right?

T. C. D. & L.

The sentence is bad with the comma and worse without it. However, the comma does not change its obvious maning. The words "as you always are" cannot modify "I am wrong." The statement "you are right" is made. One cannot be right and "always wrong," too. Only one construction can be given the sentence and the use or omission of the comman does not alter it.

Burbank and Spineless Cactus.

PORTLAND, Or., March 17.—(To the Editor.)—There is undoubtedly a general belief that Luther Burbank, of Santa Rosa, Cal., produced the spineless cactus. Occasionally he is accused by botanists of being an impostor, they claiming that Burbank did not produce the spineless cactus.

On March 7, 1910, I visited Mr. Burbank's experimental farms and spent an hour with him at his residence. Among other things he told me that he did not produce the spineless cactus. He added that he had produced a spiculeless cactus. The difference is this:

When the spineless cactus was produced the eyes left where the thorns had been were covered with needle-like spicules, which were injurious to cattle. Burbank prefected the plant already produced by removing the spicules. Furthermore he said that it was quite natural that cattle would not care for cacti when more tender food might be had; spiculeless cacti was intended for the arid regions where delicate fodder would not grow.

A recent telegram credits Burbank with a suit to regain the "spineless cacti" now at large in Australia. Such statements as these cause scientific botanists to distrust Burbank.

JOSEPH PATTERSON.

Raffles Illegal.

BANKS, Or., March 17.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me whether one has a right to raffle off his property or not—whether there is any law against that.

A READER.

Lotteries are strictly prohibited by law. A raffle is a form of lottery.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 20, 1862.

The grand jury of the county of Multnomah did, on the 17th day of March, visit and examine the state penitentiary and did find the penitentiary very much out of repair. We are of the opinion that the prison is very insecure; that the manner and system of working convicts outside the prison and prison yard is highly detrimental to the public interest; that it greatly increases the opportunity of escape. . . . We would call your attention to the fact that the recent escapes have been effected without any proper exertion on the part of the lessees to retake the prisoners so escaping. We would also recommend that the prisoners be required to wash their clothes and their bedclothes at least once a week, and that their blankets be washed at least once in three months.

H. W. CORBETT,
Foreman of the Grand Jury.

Democratic Register—This is the name of a new paper started in Eugene City by A. Noltner, formerly of the Corvallis Union. Its politics are the same as the latter paper.

A gentleman just from Salmon River reports that about 2500 persons Wintered in the mines. All the provisions had been brought up with the exception of a very little flour that is still in the hands of traders. Several parties have lately left Walla Walla with pack trains, bound for Salmon. Provisions bring $1.50 per pound at the mines and at this rate they can afford to pack through, even although they lose animals valued at $50 a head.

At last accounts there was great scarcity of provisions at Lewiston. Some articles were entirely exhausted and unless supplies were received at an early date, great suffering was apprehended. By this time, we doubt not, pack trains have gone through from Walla Walla and relieved the more pressing wants.

Good gold mines have been discovered on the lines of Lieutenant Mullan's road, 80 miles above his Winter camp. The mines are in Deer Lodge Valley and the opinion is that they will pay well.

Mrs. Forbes was honored with a well filled house last night, the occasion of her benefit. Her histrionic powers were brought out in all their brilliancy and elegance in the artistic and natural manner with which she presented Hamlet.

The pile-driver is busily engaged in driving piles near the Portland Gas Light Company's wharf, for an additional wharf, so that there will be room enough for ships to load and unload near their works. We also learn that Messrs. Johnson and Perkins intend to build a large wharf on their property in the northern part of the city.

A band of 84 pack horses and mules passed through town yesterday, destined for the mines.

A dispatch from Augusta says that news from Savannah confirms the report of the capture of Cedar Key. The Unionists burnt the town, wharves and five schooners in the port; also 50 bales of cotton and 156 barrels of turpentine. The enemy have left the place.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

No liar believes his lies. Why should he tell them?

Don't play another man's game when you are expected to be it.

A man who has worked his way up from office boy to the head of a big concern, is a real Work of Art; a greater genius than the author of a noted book. Such a man has met and mastered more serious situations than he has hairs in his head.

A woman wore mourning only two weeks, and some of the neighbors protested. "Well," she said, "I didn't have as much to mourn about as some; Bill wasn't much."

Before a thief gets around to the "big haul" that will make him rich, he lands in jail and loses his chance.

The man who is a "problem" should work for himself.

Were bill collectors not restrained by a rule that they must not "talk back," they could say meaner things than any other class of people.

In doing nothing, you take up the time of busy people.

Every man occasionally thinks he has made a discovery as important as that of Columbus.

THE REWARD OF VIRTUE.

BY DEAN COLLINS.

My friend was buried deep in gloom,
He kicked the cat upon the shelf,
And went into a bar and drank
Some lemonade, to spite himself.
I asked, "Why all this aggravation?"
"Because of voting registration."

"Have you not registered?" I asked
"Oh, grouch no more, but haste away,
And put your name upon the books,
Before their final closing day."
"Not for myself I worry so;
I registered three weeks ago."

"What boots it then? Your vote is cinched.
Put by your spasm of vexation.
And let him worry who has failed
To do the stunt of registration."
"Those," said he with an angry roar,
"Are just the kind that make me sore."

"Election day will come apace,
And I will to the polling go,
To mark the names of sundry friends,
And others whom I do not know;
Then all my sport is done, you see,
Election holds no more for me.

"But all day long, my office door,
Yea, though I keep it locked and shaded,
Will thunder 'neath my neighbors' knocks;
My working hours will be invaded
By hundred friends who never took
The time to sign up in the book.

"And I, who signed in ample time,
Must rise up, with sardonic grin,
And go forth to some notary
And help to swear the whole bunch in."
A bitter face the poor man made:
"Thus is man's righteousness repaid."

Home for Ex-Presidents.

ABERDEEN, Wash., March 14.—(To the Editor.)—A recent publication referring to the appropriation of $2,000,000 by Congress for a Lincoln memorial says: "Owing to the melancholy paucity of original ideas, some conventional expedient will probably be resorted to."

Two million dollars is a large sum. How would it do erect at a cost of half the amount "a house of refuge for ex-Presidents afflicted with the third-term mania," using the other half for a maintenance fund?

It might take many cycles of eight-year terms to fill the edifice, but a place would thus be provided to shelter an estimable gentleman of seeking proclivities, whose personal and political star will soon have dropped below the horizon. The idea being wholly original, it is suggested in the fear of possible adoption.

FORMER ADMIRER OF T. R.