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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1912.

TAFT'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT.

The greatest achievement of President Taft is without question the enforcement of the anti-trust law. This was the most distinctive of the Roosevelt policies, to which Taft undertook to adhere. He has profited by the failures and the inevitable mistakes of his predecessor and has therefore been able to continue that policy with even greater success and to show substantial results.

When Taft became President he found suits pending for the dissolution of several of the greatest trusts and he has carried nearly all of them to a successful termination. Most important were the suits against the Standard Oil Company and the American Tobacco Company, in winning which he has secured leading decisions from the Supreme Court which define the meaning and scope of the law and furnish a guide to further legislation. The two most important defeats he has suffered are in the cases of the Harriman merger and the beef trust, both of which he inherited from his predecessor. The Harriman case has not been finally decided, as an appeal is pending. The beef trust, which everybody believes to exist, although its existence seemingly cannot be proved to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt, appears now to be immune from legal molestation. Other trusts have been prosecuted in increasing numbers and the moral effect of the Government's victories has been such that several of them have thrown up their hands and voluntarily dissolved as soon as suit was begun.

The success of the President's anti-trust policy is attested most forcibly by the attitude of his opponents. Early in his Administration the fact that Attorney-General Wickersham had formerly been counsel for some of the trusts was cited as evidence of sympathy with them. Wickersham has silenced these critics and has developed a new crop among the trusts themselves, who accuse him of injuring "business" and running counter to "modern economic methods." The insurgents have ceased to accuse Taft of subservience to "the money power" and now dwell upon the necessity of regulation instead of dissolution of the trusts. Colonel Roosevelt places more emphasis on the folly of regarding mere size as an offense against the law than on the necessity of preventing even potential monopoly.

With much less noise but far more vigorous and successful action than marked the course of his present chief opponent, Taft has brought the trusts to the point where they beg for supervision, as the condition of permission to survive. We have reached the point where such Democratic newspapers as the New York World use praise of Taft's anti-trust policy as a club with which to belabor Roosevelt. The World says of him:

> He has persuaded himself that to prosecute and dissolve the Standard Oil and tobacco trusts was to be progressive in deeds. To prosecute the directors of the beef trust and sugar trust, who previous to the Taft Administration had enjoyed personal immunity, surely meant real progress. To put on trial for their lives the steel trust and the harvester trust was to be more progressive in deeds than to forbid their prosecution and to grant to the "Morgan interests that have been so friendly to us" an executive license to absorb business competitors. To make big business understand once for all that it must square itself to the law of competition and the law against monopoly, and not expect special privileges in return for political support, was to be progressive in deed. To enforce the Sherman law through the courts and not to suspend it at private audiences in the White House was the proof of progressiveness.

The pretended progressives have been driven by Taft's progressive deeds to seek new and revolutionary policies as justification for their claim to the title, for they dare not criticise the one achievement of his Administration which stands out above all the many others.

SACRED MEMORY.

"Old Willamette," as the university at Salem is affectionately called by its graduate sons and daughters, has been much in the limelight lately through the generous impulses that have caused a grand rally to its support and make possible the extension of its labors. To add to the interest thus shown and to the material benefits that are to be derived from it, an unexpected donor has come forward with a munificent donation which will be applied, not to its necessities as existing at present, but to its power for usefulness in the future by adding to its endowment fund.

Another reminder of the lingering affection that pertains to the endeavor of the missionary era is noted in the effort that is being made looking to the erection of a Jason Lee memorial church in the city that, as a village in the heart of a beautiful wilderness, was the scene of the labors of this devoted disciple of Methodism.

The pious zeal as reflected in the intrepid courage and earnest endeavors of Rev. Jason Lee is a matter of history. A touch of romance was added to his early missionary efforts by his marriage to Anne Maria Pitman, June 16, 1837. Miss Pitman had journeyed from her home in New York via the Sandwich Islands, the Columbia River and Fort Vancouver, with the understanding that, should they "suit each other," she and Jason Lee were to be married in due time after her arrival. Miss Pitman, in company with other missionaries, reached Fort Vancouver on May 18, 1837, having sailed from Boston on July 28, 1836. The meeting of the pair, as described in Bancroft's History of Oregon, probably written by Frances Fuller Victor, who was employed upon this detail work and discharged her trust faithfully and with tender touch, was embarrassing, but an ardent courtship at once ensued, with the result that they were married on the day before mentioned in a beautiful grove near the mission house. On the 26th of the following June, Anne Maria Pitman Lee died and was buried with her infant son on her breast—first among the firs beneath which she had stood when her marriage vows were taken, and later in the mission graveyard at Salem, upon the headstone of which is recorded these words:

> Beneath this sod, the first ever broken in Oregon for the reception of a white mother and her child, lie buried the remains of Anne Maria Pitman, wife of Rev. Jason Lee, and her infant son.

Contemplation of this part of or incident in the life of Rev. Jason Lee in Oregon forces the conclusion that the Lee Memorial Church should not be erected to the memory of Jason Lee alone, but that his heroic wife, whose life went out early in the missionary years, should share with him specifically, and not merely by implication, the honor of the memorial. His was a man's part, forceful and sturdy, but superior to hardship through the physical strength that he brought to it; hers, the woman's portion involving maternity without the aids and comforts of civilized life, together with the missionary's portion, which involved, with the exception of preaching, all the labors that her husband performed, including his absence from her during the last anxious months of her life and at the time of her death.

It is right and proper that a Lee memorial church be erected at Salem—a church dedicated to the memory of Jason Lee and Anne Maria Pitman, his wife. Let this edifice be built of enduring granite, and to be true to history and sacred in its tenderest sense to memory, let a memorial window be placed representing the ascension of a fair young mother with her infant son, the child of her love and self-sacrifice, in her arms. Let Jason Lee be remembered and honored in the remembrance, but let not Anne Maria Pitman, his self-sacrificing wife, be forgotten.

"YOU ARE NOW ON TRIAL, NOT I."

The following extraordinary statement makes up the exordium of Jonathan Bourne's address "to the people of Oregon" in support of his own candidacy for re-election, and is printed in the official state pamphlet:

> You are now on trial, not I. My method of making no campaign for re-election to the United States Senate is entirely new in the popular government movement. It is up to you to demonstrate whether you have the intelligence to recognize and appreciate good public service by retaining public servants who make good or whether you prefer to return to the old campaign system—use of money, character assassination, personal contracts, sophistry, misleading statements, and skillful straddling of leading questions.

Are the people fit to rule? They are fit to rule, according to Senator Bourne, if they re-elect him to the United States Senate; they are not fit to rule if they do not return him to the United States Senate.

That is the sum, substance, height, length, breadth and thickness of the entire issue.

The people of Oregon have no option or choice or alternative. If they are "intelligent" enough to re-elect Mr. Bourne the Oregon system is a success. If they are not "intelligent" enough to re-elect Mr. Bourne the Oregon system is a failure.

We rather think Mr. Bourne has presumed entirely too much upon the facts when he assumes that the fate of the Oregon system and the future of the Oregon people are inextricably involved with his own political fortunes.

GENERAL ASSAULT ON WILSON.

Henry Watterson makes the statement of the New York World that Woodrow Wilson is still the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination the occasion for a wholesale denunciation of Wilson as the weakest candidate in the field. He offers in the Courier-Journal to gamble a dinner "that at no time in the balloting of the Baltimore convention will the Governor of New Jersey attain a plurality or even approach the two-thirds necessary to a choice." He describes the claims made by the Wilson literary bureau as "fairy tales the most preposterous." He declares that of actual delegates outside of Oklahoma, where Wilson only secured half, the Pennsylvania delegation "is all that appears visible to the naked eye" in the way of Wilson delegates, while Wilson lost Kansas. He calls the cry of conspiracy raised against Clark, Underwood and Harmon a sign of panic over discovery that the Wilson boom is on the wane.

Most unkind comparisons are made between Wilson and his three rivals—Clark, Underwood and Harmon. Colonel Watterson says the Governor "was unknown to the public life of the time two short years ago," while the other men "have been for two decades in the forefront of the battle." He has "reversed the convictions of a lifetime on becoming a candidate," but of the three other candidates Watterson says:

> Underwood, Clark and Harmon have to make no renunciations. They have written no books. There are no secret chapters in their lives. They have not changed front upon any of the momentous issues of the time. It is not even of record that any one of them has gone back on a friend, or taken favors and spurned the hand that gave them. Yet, according to the Wilson Press Agency, they must not offer as candidates, because in some mysterious way known only to college clubs and swallow-tailed mugwump societies, and paraphrased by the New York World, "he is the only candidate who has shown strength in all sections of the country," moving one to ask what strength and where?

The Colonel quotes as hitting the nail squarely on the head an article in the Jacksonville Times-Union, which he describes as a "true mouthpiece of the Democracy of the South." This paper accuses Wilson of inspiring the conspiracy charge. It calls him "a man who has butted into a Democratic campaign armed with nothing but an un-Democratic record and the avowal of populistic principles and who feels it necessary to do shady work when he finds himself in competition with statesmen who have been fighting for the party when he was voting the Republican ticket or remaining away from the polls." In contrast with Underwood's and Clark's fidelity to the Democracy, it cites his denunciation as Populists as late as 1907 of all Democrats who were heartily supporting the Democratic ticket. It continues:

> Governor Wilson may have been sincere in refusing to vote the Democratic ticket because he thought it wavered of populism. Many men were. He may be sincere now in contending for the initiative and referendum. Many men are. But he is the only man we know who has jumped from one extreme to the other, and we believe he was insincere or is insincere in one of his two opposite positions. Or supposing him sincere in both, we do not believe the Democrats will nominate or the people would elect a man who had made over all his political principles after he entered the fight for the nomination.

The Courier-Journal calls this statement complete and conclusive and says that "next to the Roosevelt third-term fiasco," the Wilson candidacy "has been making itself most noisy and absurd." It attributes the support given Wilson by some Republican newspapers to the belief that he "is the only nominee we cannot possibly elect." It concludes with this parting shot:

> He is an able and an accomplished man. But he lacks every element that enters into the making of a good President, whilst his record is full of seams and snares which would make him a bad candidate. Hence, wherever one may be found who hates Democracy and wishes ill to the Democratic party, he is for Wilson.

The Wilson boomers evidently have sadly blundered. By their assault on all the other leading candidates they have provoked this united movement on their own man. They alleged a secret conspiracy and in consequence have to face open war from a united opposition.

PUNISHED ENOUGH?

Temple Alexander was a trusted accountant of the O.-W. R. & N. Company. He devised an elaborate scheme of forgery and falsification by which he was enabled to steal in four years nearly $20,000. In that time Alexander had committed over 350 separate forgeries and had covered up his crimes by deception, conspiracy and silence. The thefts had every element of calculation and deliberation, yet, when Alexander was caught and placed on trial, misguided friends made a strong effort for parole on the ground that he had learned his lesson and need not now be punished. They were in the fashion, for there is a large and growing sentiment that detection and exposure are sufficient protection for society and adequate action by society in cases like Alexander's.

How we do hate to ruffle up the feelings of a sorrowing felon who has been caught with the goods and who would have forged, robbed, cheated and betrayed all the rest of his natural life except for the painstaking and suspicious vigilance of his employers.

Judge Morrow properly insisted on Alexander's going to prison. It was most unkind and inconsiderate of the Judge, especially since the prisoner was very sorry for what he had done. We suppose that if this same hard-hearted Judge shall ever be called upon to preside over the trial of the bloodthirsty murderer who slew the two harmless and innocent young men on the Oswego road, he may insist on hanging him after he shall be found guilty. All the highwayman did was to give way to a momentary impulse to slay splendid young men whom he never before saw and who had done him no wrong in deed or thought, merely because in the excitement of the moment they tried to hurry by when he sought, in a perfectly friendly way, to hold them up at the muzzle of a shotgun and rob them.

But suppose the Judge, in his stony zeal to do justice, should insist on the law taking its course? What of that? Governor West still fills the executive chair at Salem and his trusty pen may be depended on to sign a reprieve. Let the tear-dispensing, flower-giving, criminal-coddling band of hope for all murderers take courage.

FOOD AND THE FAMILY.

The candidacy of J. D. Mickle, a highly qualified man, for Dairy and Food Commissioner brings to mind the neglect with which the people of Oregon have been inclined to treat this important office. The efficiency of the human race depends upon the food it consumes. If a man eats substances which contain little nutrition his working capacity must obviously be small. If his food is adulterated or poisoned by some of its ingredients it necessarily follows that his ability to produce results will be impaired. To children these principles apply with redoubled force. Feeding a child innutritious food is like drying up a stream at its fountain. It strikes at the very foundation of future usefulness. Martha Bensley Bruere, writing in the current number of the Outlook, takes the ground that every mother of a family is rightfully entitled to the best food and clothing the market affords for the benefit of her children. She has endured the pain and trouble of producing the children and it is the duty of society to make it possible for her to obtain proper means for rearing them to perfect manhood and womanhood.

It is one thing, however, to lay down this principle and another to carry it out in practice. How we shall proceed in order to put adequate, cheap and wholesome food within the reach of every family is a question which has not yet been answered. Clearly it is impossible for the typical head of a family to inspect the articles which he purchases with any expertness. He can tell whether some of the articles he buys are up to the mark or not, but with regard to most of them he has neither the knowledge nor the opportunity to make proper inspection before purchasing, and if he had both knowledge and opportunity he has not the time. What is true for the head of the family in this particular is in a still higher degree true of his wife. With all the duties which are heaped upon the ordinary mother of a family it is out of reason to ask her to become a competent food inspector in addition to them. Remembering as we must with what inefficiency and lack of competence the usual official food inspector performs his complex and difficult duties, is it not a little absurd to demand of the harassed mother or the hard-driven father what this paid official fails to accomplish?

If there is one duty from which the ordinary inexpert individual should be relieved, in the opinion of Mrs. Bruere, it is the scientific examination of food he procures for his family. The laws, and especially the execution of the laws, ought to be so arranged that this duty shall be carried out by officials upon whom the public can absolutely rely. Their knowledge should be adequate and their resolution to apply that knowledge in practice should be unflinching. When proper government inspection of what we must eat, drink and wear has been secured, if it ever is, then there are some other problems which, in the opinion of Mrs. Bruere, it might be well to take up. For example, how shall we reduce the cost to the family of the necessaries of life? Shall we achieve the desired reduction by the simple process of going without? There is no question of going without luxuries. It is conceded that the family which has to give thought to ways and means has no business with luxuries in these times. But, all thought of luxuries aside, it is often suggested as a solution of the high cost of living difficulty that the ordinary family cut down its list of supplies. "Get the better of the beef trust by going without fresh meat. When eggs are worth 50 cents a dozen drop them from the family diet. When the price of butter moves skyward, use no butter on your bread." This advice sounds well, but, after all, it is not wise. The diet of a growing child and a workingman requires such articles as meat, eggs and butter and when prices are such that, for the wages earned, the family cannot have them, there is something wrong with society which mere abstinence cannot remedy. In fact, abstinence is no remedy at all. It is simply the admission that the evil cannot be cured and must be endured.

Long ago the members of the English-speaking races decided that evils ought not to be endured. We possess a hereditary faith that all of them can be remedied by the application of intelligence and courage, and it has been the habit of our forefathers to persist in the application of intelligence and courage until the desired end has been attained. One of the remedies often suggested for the high cost of living from which we are all suffering just now is the public market. Mrs. Bruere asks the pertinent question whether or not the public market will do all that is expected of it. In her view it will not eliminate the middleman, but will merely bring the whole group of middlemen together in a single place. The food which is offered for sale in a public market is necessarily exposed to dirt and flies much more than it need be in stores, while the trouble of going to buy it and delivering it for oneself must also be taken into consideration. Mrs. Bruere looks with affection upon the corner grocer. With all his sins she believes that he performs a useful function in society. He stores goods for us and takes the risk of loss from decay. He keeps his supplies reasonably clean, at least if he is obliged to do so; and, best of all, according to her view, he delivers goods and saves the head of the family the necessity of wasting his working time in straying through a public market to find what he wants and carrying it home after he has purchased it.

All this is worth considering, and, even if it is not found conclusive, it will probably incline the public to look more and more to the Government for help in obtaining proper food. Mrs. Bruere cites with powerful effect the example of the stores which the Federal Government conducts at Panama. The effect of this enterprise has been a decided lowering of the price of food on the Isthmus. While, for example, the price of fresh meat has been rising in every part of the United States, it has been falling in the Canal Zone, where between January 17, 1909, and February 1, 1910, the price of porterhouse steak fell from 29 cents to 21 cents a pound. Mrs. Bruere pointedly asks why the Government cannot bring this about elsewhere as well as on the Isthmus.

Captain Robert F. Scott, who would have discovered the South Pole had not Captain Amundsen got just a little ahead of him, intends to pass another year in Antarctic regions. The fascination of polar exploration and adventure must be responsible for this determination, rather than the hope of possibility of discovering thereby anything that will profit the world or add treasure to the storehouse of science. A sheep range on the great plateau in midwinter presents as many attractions as do the vast icefields of the antarctic. The only difference is that the latter are hard to reach—the former easy. However this may be Captain Scott has announced that he is in the Antarctic for another Winter in order that he may complete his work. His patience and persistence, under what must be most monotonous and colorless conditions, are admirable and would be highly commendable were they directed toward a useful object.

Harry Thaw has got so used to being examined by alienists that he comes up smiling to the encounter. Seven of these learned humbugs have given him a "test," as the modern schoolma'am would say, within the last seven months and though depressed somewhat by the questions of the wise ones, he has borne up with a reasonable degree of cheerfulness and is serene in the conviction that he knows as much as the best of them. The probability is that he does, or why prolong the farce?

There is food for thought in view of the industrial news from the Bourne cotton mills at Fall River, Mass., in this plank of the Bourne campaign platform: "Good wages make good citizens." Conversely we suppose that bad wages make bad citizens.

When the warm days come and everybody has opportunity to drink exhilarating Bull Run water from the bubbling fountains provided by Mr. Benson's generosity, people will think of one man who has gone about doing good.

A Utah hen, laying the biggest egg on record, died in the effort. Yet hens are not the sole class of foolish biped. Many men "break their backs" in foolish endeavor, especially around election times.

Massachusetts women who have declared war on all bachelors who aspire to office would better migrate westward, where there is great opportunity to wage it in a domestic way.

Oregon's political "Who's Who" is being sent to registered voters just now, to be concluded in the newspapers in a few weeks under the title of "Who's Left."

John Arbuckle seems not to have left a will disposing of his $20,000,000. The multi-millionaire, in making more, seldom considers the end.

Judge Morrow's remarks in the Alexander case are worth reading by every youth who handles other people's money.

In the city elections in Montana sensible people of both parties united to defeat the Socialists.

Intense interest in yesterday's game was but a marker for the opening game here.

Listen to the roar for war when the Magdalena Bay details are given.

It is said Haywood is on his way to Aberdeen. Keep him going.

Possibly this is the year for "Josephine" Smith's luck to turn.

The Sandy has had its run of smelt and the appetite is satiated.

NEW LIGHT RATES WORKED OUT.

Writer Shows What Small Consumer Will Save After July 1.

PORTLAND, April 2.—(To the Editor.)—Brother Church is still anxious to sell something and therefore anything he says must be taken with a grain of salt. He reminds me of Ben Franklin's famous saying, "Beware of the man who has an ax to grind."

The commercial terms used to measure electricity are not confusing to me, or to Mr. Church, I am sure. The only cloud on his mind is his fear that he cannot saddle upon the citizens of Portland two or three million dollars' worth more of bonds. He and his ilk have taxed me and mine nearly out of existence. I am paying now 3 per cent, or nearly that amount, on 80 per cent valuation of my property. There can be no confusion in his mind upon that statement and what it means.

As to the new electric light rates, he knows there is a reduction, but apparently his ambition to sell something gets the better of his judgment.

The "possible demand" which Mr. Church refers to is not a new thing in electrical rates. That form of rate is far better for the poor man than the rich man. Mr. Church belongs to the rich class, evidently, for he has a $1,000,000 proposition to sell to the city. Now, in his house he probably has a large number of lights, and his "demand" for light must be large. Why should I, with only 10 lights in my house, pay for Mr. Church's luxury? That is just what the "possible demand" means. Then, again, only one-third of the "possible demand" is taken by an electric light company.

It does not make any difference to me what Mr. Church has to sell. I am sure I do not, for one, wish to saddle my children with any more bonds. There have been enough chains put upon their necks by men of the Church type already. However, I do know that there is a reduction in my electric light bill, and if Mr. Church will put aside the mote in his eye and figure out his bill he will find that there is a saving even to such a capitalist as he appears to be. Here is the way my bill figures under the old and new rate:

The old rate based upon my February bill, in which I was charged for 42 kilowatt hours:

4.8 k. w. h. at 15c	$ .72
37.2 k. w. h. at 5c	1.86
Total	$2.58

As figured upon the new rate, which becomes effective July 1:

7.2 k. w. h. at 9c	$ .64
7.2 k. w. h. at 7c	.50
27.6 k. w. h. at 4c	1.10
Total	$2.24

According to this there would be a saving of 34 cents on my bill.

Of course, Mr. Church knows that a "watt" is the unit of measurement, and that it is just the same as a "horsepower," a "mile," or a "cent," or any other unit taken for the purpose of measurement. He also knows "kilo" means 1000, so it is very easy to understand that a kilowatt means 1000 watts, and if you add hour to the term it means kilowatt hours, or 1000 watt hours. The trouble with such men as Mr. Church is that they desire to play upon the ignorance of men unused to the terms, rather than explain them. Take the case of the "possible demand." He knows, or should know, that it is only one-third of the 720 hours of a month which is taken, representing eight hours, instead of the whole amount as he pretends in his letter. All of these circumstances lead to the inquiry as to whether Mr. Church will misrepresent what he has to sell with the same amount of ease that he does the new electric light rate.

Having lived in Seattle, and experienced the manipulations of such promoters as Mr. Church, who, unable to sell their goods in competition with the world, seek to saddle them upon a tax-ridden community through bond issues and "easy mark" City Councils, my advice is to steer clear of all his schemes. Let the home-owner have a period of rest. Give us a chance to pay for our homes, and not tax us to death. As for Mr. Church, let him go to Seattle, and if he should present my bill to the municipal lighting plant there he would find that the 42 kilowatt hours would cost as follows:

42 k. w. h. at 7 cents	$2.94

In other words, the Portland present rate is 36 cents less than Seattle's, and the new rate will be 70 cents less. The trouble with Brother Church is that he has something to sell, and he fails to see anything but a "big gob of money in sight" for him.

JAMES COCHRANE.

TOWAGE AND PORT COMMISSIONERS

Charges Made by H. B. Evans Concerning Small Contracts are Denied.

PORTLAND, Or., April 2.—(To the Editor.)—For the benefit of the taxpayers who have read Mr. H. B. Evans' letter of March 23, published in The Oregonian March 27, under the same caption, "Towage and Port Commissioners" we wish to state the following facts:

The Commissioners had agreed to the request of the railroad company, that they be granted an extension of time to May 15, for the completion of the railroad bridge. After this had been agreed to, one of the Commissioners remarked that the mills above the bridge might be at a disadvantage in high water, and in reply Commissioner O'Reilly said that Mr. Robert Wakefield, the contractor who is putting up the railroad bridge, had made arrangements with the "Diamond O" fleet to lighter any cargo that was necessary. This was in compliance with his contract with the railroad company, and not in any way connected with the Port of Portland. We had nothing to do with the movement of the freight and did not make any contract with the "Diamond O," or any other company. Mr. Evans might have found this out by inquiry at the Commissioners' office, but possibly he was not interested in knowing the exact facts.

In regard to his further accusation, that Commissioner Shaver, of the Shaver Transportation Co., was throwing the business of the Port his way, would state that, for the six months ending December, 1910, when Mr. Shaver was not a Commissioner, the Port of Portland gave the Shaver Transportation Co., $852.40 worth of business. For the six months ending December, 1911, while Mr. Shaver was a Commissioner, they gave them $285.00 worth of business; in other words, we have not favored the Shaver Transportation Co.—in fact, have only given them business when it was urgently necessary. THE PORT OF PORTLAND.

Socialist Methods Wrong.

WILLAMINA, Or., April 1.—(To the Editor.)—The people of Willamina were treated a few evenings ago to a live-wire Socialist oration, and, to their credit, it must be said they treated it with courteous attention and reserve. It appeared the Socialist had a fertile field to work and cultivate on; but, like an enthusiastic young farmer, he with a lively young team, a new plow and good field, tears the ground up and down and crossway and everywhere, and then he predicts what a wonderful crop he will raise compared with his more unfortunate neighbors. Nay! I say, Mr. Socialist! You have to learn to acquire reason and reasonable ways, before you can teach others. You have a good and fertile field and you know it, but you don't know how to take care of it. Be wise!

CHARLES RHEADE.

Tar Fuel Runs German Engine.

Baltimore American.

A new German type of oil engine is built to run with tar as fuel, and is said to work very successfully.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of April 3, 1862.

From Lieutenant Mullan's camp, Mr. P. F. Teehill (Lieutenant Mullan's messenger) has arrived at Walla Walla from Lieutenant Mullan's camp. He represents the distance from Walla Walla to Foot River Junction at Hellgate at 363 miles, and from that point to Fort Benton at 255 miles, making the distance from Walla Walla to Fort Benton 618 miles. This ought to be passed over in good coaches, with relays of horses, in six or seven days. We suppose that steamers will be at Fort Benton in July ready to take a large number of passengers to St. Louis.

The actual number of rebel prisoners surrendered to General Grant is 13,300, among whom is General West, whose name has not before been mentioned. In addition to these, General Grant has notified General Halleck that 1000 more have been captured since the surrender, who came down to reinforce the fort Donelson), not knowing it had fallen.

John C. Breckinridge has become a habitual drunkard. He is now in Tennessee.

The eminent artists, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pope, have been engaged for six nights at the Willamette Theater. They open tonight with the great sensational play of "Camille," Mrs. Pope as Camille and Mr. Pope as Armand Darville.

The steamer Julia left yesterday for the Cascades, literally crowded with passengers. The Rival and Independence are acting in the capacity of tenders to the Julia and Carrie, the latter boats carrying only passengers, whilst the Rival and Independence are employed as stock boats.

A few days ago said we joyfully: "Spring is here," but yesterday morning the heavens wore a different aspect, and the snow fell in flakes as if Winter had concluded to tarry a little while longer.

Mr. C. E. Monport, who arrived on the last steamer, has for sale a large number of maps of the United States, showing the railroads, fortifications and the present field of operations of our armies now engaged in putting down the rebellion.

Astoria, March 29.—The loyal voters of Clatsop County met at the Court House at 2 o'clock P. M. this day. William L. Adams was chosen unanimously delegate to the Eugene Union convention. A committee of five reported a full ticket for the June election, which was adopted as follows: For Representative, P. W. Gillett; County Judge, S. F. McKean; Clerk, J. Badollet; Sheriff, A. Montgomery; Assessor, Fred K. Ketchum; Treasurer, J. G. Hustler; Coroner, Solomon H. Smith; Commissioners, P. Gearhart and Luke Taylor; Superintendent of Schools, Robert Shartiss; Surveyor, J. W. Gearhart. It was also voted that William L. Adams, the delegate to the Eugene City convention, be authorized to confer with the counties of Tillamook, Columbia and Washington in selecting a candidate for State Senator.

SIMPLICITY IN TAX SYSTEMS

Redmond Writer Applies Inadequate Test to Fels Measures.

REDMOND, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Would not a single tax on land be a much simpler and much more efficient system of taxation than the one in vogue at present? Every square foot of land could be accounted for and no taxes could be evaded. I think that every one will admit that under our present methods many taxes are evaded, and the same would be true in regard to an income tax. Is it not also true that the expense of assessment and collection would be less in the case of a single tax?

In making any great change some inconveniences must be suffered, but in a short time conditions adjust themselves to the new arrangement. If land bears the whole burden of taxation it is only just and natural that the direct produce of the land will cost more. If a farmer's taxes be greatly raised the price of wheat, etc., will advance accordingly and in the long run the farmer will be just as well off as before.

It is absurd to say that under single tax we must have free whisky. The internal revenue tax on alcohol and saloon licenses are levied in virtue of the police powers of the Government and have nothing to do with the general system of taxation.

We should consider the questions of single tax and Socialism with a more just frame of mind, looking for that which is good and not condemning the whole proposition because certain advocates introduce minor propositions which most of us would agree upon as being bad. JAMES BAKER.

Simplicity, while a desirable element, is not a complete test of a tax system. If Mr. Baker is seeking a simple tax why does he not propose the poll tax? Some states have succeeded in making poll tax payments practically unavoidable as well as economical in collection. Justice to those who pay the tax is a better test and that the single tax does not give. If Mr. Baker will read the single-tax measure proposed for Clackamas County he will find that it does abolish saloon license taxation. Under the operation of that bill the saloon license could not exceed the cost of collecting it. It would be merely nominal and exist only that the police power of regulation might better be enforced. One dollar a quarter or perhaps $1 a year would be all that could be collected from each saloon and that would be expended in printing licenses, for bookkeeping, for collecting and for similar incidentals. The county or state cannot, of course, abolish internal revenue taxes. But that is one of several reasons why Oregon cannot have the single tax as advocated by Henry George.

A Few "Ifs."

ARROW, Or., April 1.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to ask what church Roosevelt belongs to? Is it one that believes in doing unto others as you would be done by, or in doing others as they will do you? What do you think would have become of the United States if some Spaniard had got past the colored troops and smooth riders that preceded Roosevelt up San Juan Hill, while he was trying to keep up or behind, as the case might be, and shot out a piece of his memory? Or if some ferocious animal in the African jungle had got past his 400 guards, and actually got close enough to break his contract or speech and put the brave man out of business—would we still be on the map? Or would we now be ruled by the I. W. W.?

Or if (notice the if) Roosevelt should be elected for another eight years and then recommend some man to carry out his policies, which he never could do himself, and the man should make good against the wishes of Roosevelt, and do more for the country in three years than Roosevelt did in seven and a half, would it make him sore again, that is, sore enough to throw his hat in the ring? Will we know the has-beens from the good when Roosevelt quits the game? Yours for Taft,

R. L. MARVIN.

Co-Operative Stores in England.

PORTLAND, April 1.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please inform me where I can get information relative to the co-operative stores in England? If no work on this business is published, please give me what information you may have, and greatly oblige.

Consult Co-Operative Industry, by Ernest Aves, at the Portland Public Library.

Nitts on Registration

BY DEAN COLLINS.

Nescius Nitts, sage of Punkindorf Station,
Reducing his quid to the right liquidation,
Spied a beetle, who beat it in wild consternation,
But started too late to escape inundation;
Then he spake upon voters and their registration.

"I see by the papers that some is complainin'
Of voters unregistered still a-remainin'
By thousands. Now sence from a trip to the city
Phil Love has come back, it shore strikes me a pity
If they can't use 'currences he tells about
To sign up them fellers who still is in doubt.

"Phil said he seen hundreds and hundreds of 'men
A-swarmin' around, jest like sheep in a pen,
And each one inquirin' of each, o'er and o'er
In feverish accents; 'I say, what's the score?'
And Phil looked to see what attracted that horde,
And seen 'twas a big baseball bulletin board.

"They jest hung around it like bees around honey;
They wouldn't forsake it fer love nor fer money.
When Phil asked a feller: 'Where's So-and-so's store?'
He never looked 'round, but jest said, 'What's the score?'
When Phil tells me this, I jest says: 'Why, tarnation!
This here solves the problem of slow registration!'

"Spose now, they should put up inside of a fence
Them bulletin boards and tell ev'ryone: 'Gents,
The registered voters alone sees the score!'
Why they'd never have no more trouble no more;
And when the election's begun to begin,
There wouldn't be one that we'd have to swear in."

EVANS IDEAL MAN FOR OFFICE

Appeal Made to Right-Thinking Voters to Support Him.

PORTLAND, April 1.—(To the Editor.)—It has long been the contention on the part of the voters of Multnomah County that the important office of District Attorney has long played to the galleries, that its chief value lay in the fact that it was used largely as a political headquarters, and that only such laws were enforced as would insure the incumbent another term in office. However, the era of conscience has come and the general awakening throughout the city for Walter H. Evans for District Attorney indicates that the time is here when the citizens are demanding that this office shall no longer be prostituted.

All too long has the vote of the better element been split asunder by the failure solidly to unite upon a single man, while the element who desire to use the office for a selfish purpose have solidly united upon a man to do their bidding. Let this election be the turning point. And let the better element stand as a unit for Walter H. Evans, Republican candidate for District Attorney.

Walter H. Evans enters this fight as the most able candidate for the office of District Attorney that can be selected in the City of Portland. His experience and success as a prosecutor in the Federal courts is such as to enable him to enter the office of District Attorney of Multnomah County with the ability and experience necessary to carry on the duties of that office successfully. In character Walter H. Evans represents the type of man in whom the people can put their confidence and a man to whom the people can look for a vigorous and impartial administration of the law. As a public servant of the people, he has in no way placed himself under obligations to be paid out of the office of the District Attorney, and, therefore, stands free to act and to act impartially.

All too often have the people of this city complained of conditions resulting from their own folly in electing men. The voters of Multnomah County now have their chance to free the office of District Attorney from the numerous shortcomings connected with it in the past, and to make it an efficient agent of the people. The question as to whether the people desire that this office shall be raised from the condition that it is now in to a high level and an efficient standard, rests wholly upon the uniting of the better element upon a single candidate in whom they can put their confidence. Let the growing sentiment in favor of Mr. Evans grow, and let it increase until we have placed this man in the office of District Attorney. F. M. D.

The Farmer's View.

I have heard the newsboys crying and the streetcars' rasping grind, I've been dodging taxicabs for nigh a week and my heart is growing heavy, for a friend seems hard to find here in town where people live upon their cheek. I get lost when in the turmoil and I'm mortally afraid some fellow will my wallet gently pick; and when I go to luncheon I wish I'd stayed at home, where pies are large and fat and thick.

Mirandy was a wise one when she wouldn't come with me, and I'll bet she smiles when I recite my story; let her laugh in boist'rous pleasure, for she sure deserves the glee, staying home when I went on this trip to glory. As I said before, I'm sickened of this turmoil and the noise (Mirandy said I'd be, in simple warning), and you bet when it is over I will take my little boys and go fishin' with a relish some bright morning.

No doubt you think my story is a blasted houn'dog tale. Well, it isn't, and I hope you'll feel my needs, for while you with smiles trip down the street as evening's glances pale, in joy, out on the farm, I'm hoeing weeds.

—G. Norbrey Pleasants.

Yamhill, Or.

Umatilla's Mission.

Pendleton Live Wire.

Oregon's vote on Presidential candidates at the primaries next April will be watched with keen interest by the entire Nation. It is important therefore that friends and supporters of Mr. Taft in this state take steps to see that his majority is as large as possible. In this work Umatilla County must help.

There is no question that confidence in Mr. Taft's Administration and sincere desire for its continuation will place him far ahead of Roosevelt when the votes are counted in this county, but we should not be content with that result. Every loyal Republican should make it a personal duty to see that Mr. Taft is given the most substantial vote of confidence within the power of this county.

A Wise Maiden Waits.

Judge.

Fan—Why don't you dance more?

Mabel—Well, I've had five proposals already this season while sitting out dances in the conservatory.

Patience with Mexico is rapidly ceasing to be a virtue.