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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1912.

ABUSE OF FEDERAL PATRONAGE.

Within a few months after President Taft had recommended that he be relieved of the entire burden of appointing subordinate local officials of the Government he was accused by Roosevelt of more scandalous abuse of patronage than the ex-President had ever seen. The Colonel's charge was proved to be baseless by the New York World, which found, after careful inquiry, that only fifty of the Taft delegates from the South are Federal officials, while in 1904 Roosevelt marshalled 187 officeholders as delegates for himself and in 1908 he counted 229 officials among the Southern delegates. These facts are in line with the statement of Secretary MacVeagh in the Outlook that "Taft has been far and away a better civil service reformer than Roosevelt was." Mr. MacVeagh also says:

"He has put within the classified service every position that he could reach with the President's own power. He has gone to Congress with recommendation after recommendation for the inclusion within the classified service of every administrative and executive office now subject to the confirmation of the Senate which, we say Civil Service reformer would say, should be included. I know of no Presidential record, with respect to Civil Service reform, that equals that of President Taft; and yet nothing is said about it, and little is known about it by the public at large. He gets no applause for it. On the other hand, he is charged with the use of patronage and with an interest in patronage, while the truth is that he hates patronage and is trying to get rid of it. He has urged Congress to help him get rid of it where he can't get rid of it himself. He has voluntarily divested himself of all the patronage he could without the authority of Congress; and he is trying to get rid of all that he shares with the Senate, and to make the classified service practically universal. And as to what remains against his will he shows an unprecedented personal indifference. It has been found impossible to get him to influence, or to punish, the office-holders who support Roosevelt or La Follette or Cannon or anybody else who is opposing him. There never before has been such patronage tolerance. There never before has been such a progressive Civil Service leader in the Presidency.

"There are but two ways to dispose of these quadrennially recurrent charges of abuse of patronage in the South. One is to adopt Taft's recommendation that all subordinate offices be added to the classified service. The other is to reduce Southern representation in conventions to a reasonable proportion to the Republican vote cast. Meanwhile it ill becomes the man who used Federal patronage in the South to the limit of his power, when he had the opportunity to accuse of such abuse of power the man who has made least use of it and done his utmost to get rid of it.

ASSET CURRENCY AND RESERVES.

The National reserve plan of the National Monetary Commission is being subjected to criticism by bankers on the ground that the note-issuing power of the association would tend to encourage inflation. Edmund D. Hulbert, of Chicago, is quoted by the Economist as saying:

"You can't make a dollar but of 23 1-2 per cent of gold and 66 2-3 per cent promise and be sure that that dollar is always going to be just as good as a gold dollar.

The bill of the Monetary Commission provides that the reserve association shall carry a reserve in gold equal to half its deposits and circulating notes, and shall pay a graduated tax on any amount that its reserve falls below that proportion. It also provides that no more notes shall be issued so long as the reserve is below 33 1-3 per cent of its outstanding notes. The bill provides a tax of 1½ per cent on notes in excess of $800,000,000 and of 5 per cent on notes in excess of $1,200,000,000. These provisions would automatically maintain the reserve and restrict issue of currency, causing its retirement when its volume exceeded the legitimate needs of business. To the extent to which the notes were secured by the assets of the Reserve Association, they would be asset currency, secured not by promises, as Mr. Hulbert says, but by the assets of the business of the country. Other nations issue notes against assets and their banks enjoy a stability and freedom from panics which make them the envy of American banks. Surely the prime commercial paper which would be discounted by the Reserve Association should be as good security for notes as like paper is in England, France or Germany.

Mr. Hulbert prefers to the Monetary Commission scheme an extension of the privileges of the Aldrich-Vreeland act for the formation of currency associations and urges as an advantage that this involves no concentration of the reserves into one mass. But the chief drawback of the present banking system is that a large part of the reserves is concentrated in New York, where it is used mainly in stock speculation instead of in commercial business. That part of the reserve which remains in the hands of individual banks is so dissipated as to be useless in withstanding a panic, while the New York banks at such times hold onto the reserve deposits of the country banks as a measure of self-preservation. Thus the country banks are deprived of the benefit of their reserves at the time of greatest need.

What is needed, and what the National Reserve scheme would provide, is an organization by which the reserve could be concentrated but at the same time be available for the protection of any bank which needed its support. New York would not then draw together a large proportion of the reserve during times when the market was easy and retain a grip on it when the market became tight and the country banks need all their resources. All the banks would have a voice in the management of the National Reserve Association and all would be entitled to use its facilities on the same terms. The reserve could not, as now, be used in stock speculation, for the bill expressly forbids loans on stocks.

The National Reserve plan would have been received with far more favor had it not become known as the Aldrich plan. Aldrich is only one of a number of men who drafted the bill, but his unpopularity has attached to the work of the Commission and has created prejudice against it among those who have made no study of its provisions. The plan has undoubted merits and some such means must be adopted before many years if the United States is to escape the unenviable distinction we now have of suffering from more disastrous and more frequent financial panics than any other country.

MARKETING THE FRUIT CROP.

With a large fruit crop in prospect, both in the Northwest and the East, the growers of this section can secure remunerative prices only by systematic marketing through a central organization such as they have formed. They can go direct to the retailer in the small cities of the United States, and by thus broadening their market can sell the increased production. By careful grading and packing they can offer a quality so high that it will command a premium over the inferior product of many Eastern orchards.

The foreign market furnishes a field for the Northwest fruitgrower which is capable of unlimited expansion, and the manager of the exchange has acted wisely in extending his organization to Europe. So far only the surface of that market has been scratched and sales have been confined to the chief seaports. By establishing direct relations with the merchants of the many great interior cities, entire cargoes can be easily sold. The European consumer, having once become familiam with the high quality, careful selection and systematic packing of our fruit, will become a customer for annually increasing quantities of it. The ocean route to Europe having been shortened by the Panama Canal, our fruit can be landed at Liverpool, Southampton, Havre, Hamburg, Bremen or Copenhagen as cheaply as at our North Atlantic ports, where Oregon apples already command a premium. The organization once completed and the reputation of our fruit once established, cargoes from the Pacific Coast should be as readily salable as are cargoes of oranges, lemons or grapes from the Mediterranean ports in Northern Europe.

As more orchards come into bearing year after year, the production of the Pacific Northwest will increase at such a pace that only the most complete, far-reaching selling organization can find a market for it. Such an organization can make the fame of our fruit world-wide and can realize on that fame in the shape of sales, which will absorb larger crops from year to year. We need never fear to produce too much fruit so long as we maintain efficient means of getting it into the hands of the consumer.

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD FOR ALASKA.

Secretary Fisher's plans for the development of the Alaska coal fields have been taken up by Representative Sulzer, who has introduced a bill providing for their execution. This bill creates the Alaska Railway Commission of seven members with authority to build or acquire railways, docks, wharves and terminals in Alaska, to segregate 20,000 acres of coal land in the Matanuska field as a coal reserve and to develop and operate coal mines for use of the Navy and other Government purposes. The Isthmian Canal Commission is directed to transfer to the Alaska Commission any of its plant which is no longer needed on the Isthmus.

Passage of this bill would be the first practical step to end the embargo which the conservation extremists have caused to be put on the development of Alaska. It is based on a personal knowledge of conditions in and the needs of the northern territory. That Mr. Fisher's policy has received the hearty indorsement of a leading Democrat in Congress is strong testimony of its soundness and raises hope that the leaders of the House will rise above partisan considerations in their treatment of legislation for Alaska.

The only provision of the bill which is open to serious criticism is that which confides the work of locating and constructing railways to a commission of seven members. Experience at Panama has shown that the chief function of the Commission was to delay action. Not until Colonel Goethals was given undivided power did work on the canal make such rapid progress as to insure its completion before the date set for opening.

The railway bill is only one of the measures necessary to the development of Alaska. Unless a bill is passed at the same session providing for the leasing of coal land on the plan outlined by Mr. Fisher, the proposed railroad will have very little traffic. Should the way be opened for development of coal mines while the railroad is under construction, the mines may be ready to ship coal by the time the railroad is ready to haul it. If Mr. Sulzer can secure the passage of a leasing bill as well as his railway bill at this session of Congress, all persons interested in Alaska will owe him a double debt of gratitude.

AS TO COLORADO.

"Still harping on my daughter," Polonius exclaimed, when he heard Hamlet raving. Some of the anti-suffragists resemble Hamlet in the particular that they keep harping continually on one subject, however unlike the noble Dane they may be in other respects. To read the speeches and letters of these singular geniuses one would be forced to believe that they never heard of any state or country where women vote except Colorado. They never have anything to say about Norway, Finland, the British colonies in Australasia, of the municipal suffrage which women have enjoyed for many years throughout the British Empire. They fix their enchanted gaze on Colorado and see nothing else in all the wide, wide world. There is a good deal to see in other places, however, if they could bring themselves to look at it.

But let us gaze at Colorado with these good sisters. Colorado has had more difficult civic problems to solve than almost any other state in the Union. But in comparing Colorado with other states the anti-suffragist writers take no account of these problems.

"Look at Colorado," they cry. "Its child labor laws and some of its other uplift legislation are far behind Oregon where women do not vote. What an awful scandal!" In the same way an equally thoughtless person might point to a man born with a crooked spine and rail because he was not an Apollo. To be fair to Colorado and the women who are laboring so hard to redeem it, the comparison ought to be made between the state as it was when suffrage was obtained and as it is now. Of course the antis are more concerned to make their point than to be fair, but the unprejudiced outsider will weigh their arguments for what they are worth.

It cannot be repeated too often that Colorado was ruled for many years before Judge Lindsey and the voting women began their work by the sordid and corrupt Smelter Trust and several other conscienceless corporations. They had reduced the state to virtual anarchy by their enormities. The state government was bad. Even the Supreme Court had become venal. There was not a thought of welfare legislation in Denver or any other Colorado community. Vice was rampant. Corruption was universal. The voting women of the state colinborating with Judge Lindsey have changed all that. The juvenile court which they have sustained has become the model for the world. Denver has begun to take the lead in all kinds of humanitarian legislation and uplift work. In the election the other day Judge Lindsey won out by 20,000 majority and it was the women who gave him his victory. The less the antis have to say about Colorado to intelligent people the better for their cause.

HOW SHALL PARTIES RULE?

Let us see if we understand correctly our dear brother U'Ren's great idea of proportional representation. He would give the Socialists, the Democrats and the Prohibitionists representation in the State Legislature in exact ratio with their respective numbers. If there are 60,000 Republicans, 40,000 Democrats, 10,000 Socialists and 10,000 Prohibitionists in Oregon, there should be, say, 45 Republicans, 30 Democrats, 7½ Socialists and 7½ Prohibitionists sent to Salem as the representatives of their parties and the people. Your Socialist Mr. U'Ren would translate from a nightly soapbox volcano of mere words to a moving legislative force; and your Prohibitionist would not be the helpless and neglected political worm he is today. These are the things Mr. U'Ren, with broad impartiality, would do, or says he would do.

But let us see what Mr. U'Ren has done with one mighty scheme of political representation, now on the statute books of Oregon. The vote for Mr. Roosevelt at the recent primary election was 28,780; Mr. La Follette, 22,924; Mr. Taft, 20,421. In the Democratic primary the vote for Wilson was 8847; Clark, 7853; Harmon, 545. The primary law, product of the strategic foresight of Mr. Bourne and Mr. U'Ren, requires that all the Republican delegates at Chicago vote for Mr. Roosevelt, and all the Democratic delegates at Baltimore vote for Wilson. Yet Roosevelt is a minority winner, the combined majority against him in Oregon being 14,000.

Under any scheme of proportional representation Roosevelt would have, say, four of the Oregon delegates, and Taft and La Follette three each. Wilson would have 3, Clark 4½ and Harmon ½ a vote. All elements, all shades of opinion, all factions would be truly represented at Chicago and Baltimore.

But now we find a delegation half Taft and half Roosevelt, bound, gagged and delivered to Roosevelt; and a delegation part Wilson, part Clark, bound, gagged and delivered to Wilson. The plurality, or the majority, rules.

The majority should rule, in the opinion of The Oregonian. There is no other way for effective political action. Yet Mr. U'Ren has one scheme for legislative representation in Oregon and another for party representation. No wonder the political parties of Oregon are neither fish, flesh nor good red herring.

STUDYING ART IN PARIS.

If we may take the word of Mrs. Alice Woods for it, the art schools of New York and Chicago are preferable to those of Paris. In her opinion it is a mistake for an American girl to go to Europe to study either painting or music because, for divers reasons, she can do better at home. Alice Woods is the pen name of Mrs. E. P. Ullman, who has lived in Paris many years and still makes her home there. She has written books on student life in the gay capital of France, and probably knows as much about the subject as anybody in the world. Of course she does not deny that there is more of an "atmosphere of art" in Paris than in any American city, but the atmosphere of art is not what young students need so much as definite instruction. The instructors in the studios at Paris do not, according to Alice Woods, show any very attentive interest in their students. Each one is allowed to work or idle as he pleases. There is nobody to correct his blunders and no particular encouragement is forthcoming. One naturally supposes that these strictures do not apply to the Beaux Arts, which, everything considered, is no doubt the best art school in the world; but in order to enter that institution a rigorous examination in general subjects must be passed for which comparatively few American students are prepared.

Why they are not prepared is an interesting question. We have public schools in this country as they have in France, and most of our young people who take up art studies have graduated from them. But the French schools prepare their students to pass an examination which ours as a rule dare not attempt. France is famous for its political and administrative machinery, but it has not yet turned its public schools into that perfect species of machine with which we are familiar in this country. Hence in the French schools boys and girls continue to learn something while in America they too often merely mark time. But, however that may be, Mrs. Woods emphasizes the fact that very few American students are competent to pass the academic examinations for entrance to the Beaux Arts even if they had the inclination to do so. They take up their studies in the private studios and suffer the consequences of neglect and indifference while they try to climb the steep pathway to fame. Most of the girls who go to Paris to prepare themselves for earning a living by music or painting are poor. They have just enough money to skimp along for a year or two in the Latin Quarter and then they expect to return prepared to support themselves as "professionals." Mrs. Woods points out the folly of any such a plan. It takes several years of hard study to become a passable workman in any of the arts. Neither painting nor music can be learned in the time which the ordinary ambitious and impecunious young woman plans to devote to it. The outcome of her enterprise is only too likely to be misery while she resides in Paris and disappointment when she comes back home.

Several of the common illusions about life in Paris with its joys and advantages are punctured by Alice Woods in an interview which she has given the New York Times. The notion that there is more freedom in the French capital than at home for a young woman student is one of them. The "freedom" which we hear so much about is very apt to be nothing better than isolation and neglect. American girls may live in clubs in various parts of Paris, if they wish and have the means, but in that case they are subject to as many rules as if they were attending a boarding school. The only alternative to the clubs is a solitary apartment where one is usually surrounded by selfish and disagreeable people. It is not true that American students are admitted to the social life of Paris. They are obliged to consort with their own country people or go without companionship entirely. Even the Russian and German students, according to Mrs. Woods, shun the Americans, but she probably overstates the truth in regard to this matter. What keeps American students in a flock by themselves is undoubtedly their ignorance of the foreign languages. If they could speak the various tongues which are heard in the studios they would form intimacies easily enough.

This well-informed writer assures Americans that there is not nearly so much danger to the morals of young girls in Paris as many suppose. Starvation is a more real peril to them than vice. The girl who undertakes to live by herself in Paris does not get enough to eat and what she does get is so badly cooked that it is sometimes worse than useless. If she must practice economy it is of course in her food. If she is in a hurry she omits her luncheon. At the restaurants the American girls eat the cheapest dishes and stint themselves of every luxury. They do this, we are told, because they feel it their duty to sacrifice everything to their ideal of professional success. The life which they live in Paris, if this picture of it is true, is melancholy and unwholesome to the last degree. In order to lay the foundations of success in art or music a person must build up a sound body. Singing in particular depends on good lungs and strong muscles, but these American girls begin by wrecking their bodies in order to cultivate their genius. Is it not a pity that they should make a blunder so terrible? It is all the more of a pity because they could study to better advantage in their home cities, as a rule, or at any rate in New York, Philadelphia or Chicago, where they would be in close communication with their families and might enjoy the companionship of friends. The time to go to Europe is after one has acquired the mechanical part of an art education and wishes for the inspiration of great pictures and statues together with that subtle something which is called "an art atmosphere."

Secretary Knox attributes to the muckraker our misunderstandings with the South American republics. But how is he to be suppressed? We have found it impossible to suppress him within our own borders. If it were possible, it would be difficult to extinguish the muckraker—the slanderer of public men—without confounding with him the honest critic, who renders a valuable public service.

How could girls employed by so eminently ladylike and proper a publication as the Ladies' Home Journal possibly forget themselves so far as to dance the turkey trot? All the teachings of propriety, decorum, etiquette and all other things of that class which have distinguished the Journal have gone for naught. It was a sad day for Mr. Bok.

Whether the typhoid fly or the park "masher" is the worse nuisance might be difficult to decide. The Mayor and Council cut the Gordian knot by treating them both alike. This is judicious and, we hope, effective, but the suspicion intrudes that the masher will survive after the fly is extinct.

Mrs. Russell considered that Schuyler Duryea owed her $1900. Her actions imply that she considers the pleasure of horsewhipping him worth that sum. Would he have been willing to give as much to escape the whipping?

It is a dull convention which is not enlivened by a fight between the Indiana factions. New and the regulars got Beveridge's scalp in 1910 and presented it to the Democrats. Beveridge now tries to harvest New's scalp for Roosevelt.

The judgment obtained against Bigelow will cause many promoters to tremble lest the innocent stockholders sue them. An innocent stockholder is dangerous when he gets his back up and has money to hire good lawyers.

If the animosity against Roosevelt should lead to the publication of a new series of "Dear Maria" letters, the redoubtable Colonel may yet take to the cyclone cellar.

Another Oklahoma town is devastated, yet that state is a good one in which to reside if a man owns a cyclone cellar and is swift of movement.

There is no menace in German colonization in Brazil. When the time comes for Uncle Sam to say "Scat!" the Germans will scatter.

Mere man has all along held that Mr. Bok was putting it all on, but his disgust with the "turkey trot" seems to prove his sincerity.

Really, Tacoma cannot be as bad as thought, although a Portland man who moved there committed suicide when despondent.

The wonder is how King Ahab's wife managed to keep the hired girl, with more than 5000 kitchen utensils in use.

The June rise, generally here during May, has but few days in which to make good.

It is a rare day when we do not hear of a bolt or a split in some state convention.

It is up to the Colonel to respond that "Dear Maria" is a—prevaricatress.

Secure your mail today and give postoffice people a holiday tomorrow.

Barney O'Neil's bail bond is reaching a classic figure.

Perhaps Dr. Wiley has been eating something.

Jersey lightning struck.

BLUE SKY BILL IS INJURIOUS.

So Thinks Correspondent, Who Says It Will Hamper Business.

PORTLAND, May 28.—(To the Editor.)—The so-called "blue sky law," drafted for presentation to the voters at the next general election for the regulation of corporations operating in this state, while on the surface appearing to be a good measure and one which will be of benefit in protecting innocent investors from the fraudulent manipulation of dishonest stock salesmen, is really a danger and a menace to our prosperity and development.

It will make the process of organization and carrying out the business of legitimate corporation enterprises so burdensome as to drive from the state many enterprises which would be of great benefit to the community. It takes out of the hands of any corporation any right to regulate its business without submitting the change in management, plans, operations, financing or development to the corporation commissioner and receiving his approval therefor.

It would require a corporation commissioner of infinite variety of experience in all classes of business, with a full knowledge of all manufacturing industries and patents, information of land values, of mining, agriculture, banking, building and every other form of business activity to pass upon a question as to whether its proposed plan of business and proposed contract "promise fair return to its bond or stockholders."

This is a ridiculous clause, and in itself would be sufficient, when put to a test, to render the law a laughing stock of all the other states in the Union. Since over 99 per cent of the fraudulent enterprises, the stock of which is sold to investors in Oregon, are foreign corporations, it would be impossible for the Corporation Commissioner to exercise the supervisory powers conferred upon him by this bill. While, on the other hand, the burdensome, inequitable and ridiculous red tape that it places upon the organization and management of an honest corporation, one of the most ideal methods of co-operative business management, would so hamper the upbuilders of this state as to render their work practically useless, and will drive to other states for organization many corporations which would, under ordinary conditions, be organized and promoted in Oregon with Oregon corporations to the profit of Oregon people.

There are many other provisions in this bill which will effectually prevent promotion of meritorious enterprises in this state. The provisions of the bill which prevent stock being sold for less than par, the limiting of the commission that may be paid for the sale of stock, and other features of the bill are bad, while the main object of the bill, viz., to prevent fraud and misrepresentation, is not served.

It will be well for the people to stop and consider before taking up a law such as this proposed "blue sky law," which, while modeled after the law of Kansas, attempts to go further and threatens to throttle all development enterprises.

We expect to have on our ballot at the next election over 40 initiative measures. A bill such as this labeled, "A bill to protect innocent investors against corporations," or some other sugar-coated title, will get the votes of the unthinking throughout the state, and before we know it we will have another law upon our books which it will be impossible to enforce, and the very fact of having it on our books will be a detriment to the state.

Fraudulent practices, illegitimate stock selling, misrepresentation, etc., can be reached through a simple amendment to our existing laws without attempting to remodel our entire industrial system.

CHARLES H. LEHMAN.
222 Chamber of Commerce Building.

Redressing South Portland Streets.

PORTLAND, May 26.—(To the Editor.)—An ordinance providing for redressing the macadamized streets in a district extending from Hall street south to Marquam gulch and from Front to 200 feet west of Sixth street, is before the Council street committee. The plan is to improve with bitulithic those streets not already hard-surfaced. Kearney street has been thus treated, and it is said has proved more substantial and far less expensive than the old way of entirely removing the street bed. No doubt values will be greatly enhanced and property rendered much more desirable.

As an owner of a corner on Sixth street, I am in favor of this improvement, but in common with others holding property on Sherman west of Sixth do object on the ground that this is but a short stub of a street, certain shortly to be bisected by an avenue connecting the Park streets with the Terwilliger boulevard. In that event all money expended on Sherman (in my case about $1000) would have been wasted, as grades would have to be readjusted to conform with the boulevard. It may be said present plans provide for terminating Terwilliger boulevard at head of Sixth, but doubtless this is only temporary.

Olmsted's plans provide for a scenic avenue skirting the hills from head of Park blocks to the southern limits of the city. Long before expiration of the 10 years' bonding period this splendid thoroughfare will have been finished. Until this matter is settled, all with whom I have talked agree that we should not be forced to make this improvement. J. L. McCOWN.

From a Citizen Not Perplexed.

PORTLAND, May 27.—(To the Editor.)—Being a constant reader of The Oregonians I notice some such efforts as "A Perplexed Citizen" makes in a letter published May 27. Strange that some people are yet in trouble about what the silver and especially Mr. Bryan would do to the people. I am living beyond the allotted time given mankind, and have never known a time when the silver dollar was not good for its face, nor when Mr Bryan was accused of being a candidate for the modern ananias club. It is reasonable to presume that A. P. C. pays most of his bills with that dubased coin. That "we all" he speaks of, must be a small "all." Such twaddle is excruciating. He does not appear to discriminate between the man stolen from and the man who purloins from him. Evidently A. P. C. is a politician who is limping along in the rear of his party. As to Mr. Roosevelt, his friends no doubt feel like saying, with the man who was compelled to pass behind the vicious mule, "With all thy faults we love you still." Saddest of all, President Taft may never know of the boost given him by A. P. C.

OBSERVER.

Clapp for Vice-President.

PORTLAND, May 27.—(To the Editor.)—In the great "three-ring circus" of politics now interesting and amusing the people of this Nation, I have seen no mention of candidates for second place.

I would like to place in nomination the name of Senator M. E. Clapp, of Minnesota.

"Roosevelt and Clapp" would make a live team that would sweep the country.

Or if, as has been hinted, the nomination is liable to go to a "dark horse," why not "Clapp" at head of ticket?

C. H. BEARD,
1205 Cleveland ave.

Trespassers on Railroad Tracks.

Kansas City Times.

Our railroads kill 10,000 a year. More than half of these on this list are trespassers on the tracks.

SOCIALIST OFFERS HIS SOLUTION.

Evils of Trust System Not to Be Remedied Otherwise, He Declares.

PORTLAND, May 27.—(To the Editor.)—In his letter appearing May 22, Seneca C. Beach speaks important truths regarding combination and corporation. We wish to make a little broader application of the principles which he so ably expounds.

Mr. Beach says: "It is ridiculous to undertake to stop this onward march of combination—the result of organization are certain, safe and sure; what less should a good business man want to strive for?"

Very, very true and since the world was not originally intended solely for business men, I would also ask what less should a good working man want to strive for? The principle is just as applicable to him as to the business man.

In commenting on the Supreme Court's order of dissolution in the Standard Oil and Tobacco trust cases Mr. Beach wishes to know who has profited. He asks if tobacco and oil are any cheaper to the consumer than they were a year ago. Most people will acknowledge that there has been no noticeable change in that direction.

We think it would take a great deal of careful investigation to discover where the common people have derived any benefit from these decisions except, perhaps, as a means of showing them how foolish are these attempts as a means of relief from the evils that at present are most pressing.

Mr. Beach thinks that trusts and combinations should be regulated and restricted, but not destroyed, that it is impossible to destroy them. Many men are coming to take this view of the matter and many are recognizing the logical outcome which is the complete organization of the different industries upon a co-operative basis under the social ownership and democratic control of the whole people.

Politicians of the La Follette brand, so Mr. B. says, do not mean what they say when they speak against the railroads; that they are only talking for votes. If he will look closely he will find that the Roosevelt and Taft and Clark and Harmon and other varieties are all talking and talking hard for votes, and some of them are even using these trust-busting court decisions as a bait.

Mr. B. closes thus: "Competition is war, and war is hell.

"Co-operation is peace and peace is profit."

We workers are learning that this is true beyond question. Hence the growth of the Socialist movement. Read Russell's article in Hampton's for January if you doubt its growth. We are past the point where we swallow whole whatever the demagogues may tell us. When the different brands of Republicans and Democrats can show us just how the remedies they propose are going to operate for the relief of those who most need relief we shall be glad to listen to them, but when some one asks how, and when, they are as mum as clams. Not one article have I ever seen among the letters in their columns furnishing this much-desired information.

R. B.

QUEER ACTS FOR HUMAN BEINGS

Unaccountable Lack of Thought and Manners Astounds Writer.

PORTLAND, May 27.—(To the Editor.)—Being under the impression that all actions in this kingdom of mankind are at commandment of the mind, I have recently been somewhat at a loss to understand the quality of mental reasoning which gave order for certain conduct in this city, coming under my personal observation.

First—A man is walking along Third street, near the Plaza block. A boy, passing, about 14 years of age, addressed him thusly: "What's the time?" The man takes out his watch and tells him. Without a word the boy goes on his way, whistling.

Second — There is an ordinance against spitting on the sidewalks. A man, looking in a store window, suddenly turns around and spits right across the sidewalk to the roadway. Other passers-by gave no indication of their displeasure, but I felt nauseated at having to pass through the obstruction of polluted air caused by the passage of that man's spittal.

Third—There is no ordinance against blowing one's nose through the fingers in public. A respectable-looking man, walking recently along a busy thoroughfare, suddenly put his hand to his nostrils and carried through the horrid performance. Then he calmly took a nice white handkerchief from his hip pocket and cleaned up his fingers and face.

Fourth—All the newspapers and magazines in the reading room at the public library. Seventh and Stark streets, have their designated places clearly indicated by duplicate numerals. Visitors take them from the racks, sit down and read for a time, and then, with the utmost unconcern, go away, leaving the paper or magazine piled up on the table with numerous others.

Are you able to enlighten me? The animal kingdom is said not to have the ability to reason. Positive possession of this power is our crowning glory. JOHN CHARLES WRIGHT.

GROUCH FOUND IN BAGGAGE-ROOM

He Puts Terror Into Soul of Unsophisticated Country Traveler.

HARTLAND, Wash., May 27. — (To the Editor.)—If you saw the pictures of Ulysses passing the Scylla and Charybdis you know how the growler in the baggage-room at the Union Station looks to the average unsophisticated countryman, only he is more terrifying than any monster that old scout ever was up against.

Saturday a young woman, happy on her way home, went in to check a trunk and came back mad all through. Fortunately she had sufficient iron in her system to elucidate thoroughly to the bearish grouch the error of his attitude, explaining, with other things, that his was not the only rotten job in the world and the advisability of going outside and absorbing some sunshine.

Everybody likes Portland — "Thy whole-souled men; a courtly throng; thy ladies fair, thy waters strong"—it is our city; we like to come to it and we must needs pass through it to get from one isolation to another, but we don't like to have our joy killed going and coming.

Sometimes we have to stay out in the wilderness so long that we get rusty as to city ways, but no slowness, dullness or stupidity on our part (and there was neither in this instance) can excuse the discourtesy our needs meet at this particular point in the journey.

The next time you see the man that has Mr. Harriman's job, please ask him to give this fellow a vacation in the brush, where he can sweat the jaundice out of his system and the spite out of his soul and come back with a little cheer for his fellow travelers on the great journey.

A. T. ALLEN.

Father of the Italy of Today.

Kansas City Star.

The name of Joseph Garibaldi always will be remembered in Italy. About 50 years ago Italy was not a nation. It was made up of little states ruled for the most part by Austria. The people resented the foreign rule. They rebelled. From the ranks of the peasants there arose a fisherman's son, Joseph Garibaldi, who led the rebellion against the Austrian troops. At first he failed. Later efforts were successful and Garibaldi is now one of the national heroes of the new Italian nation.

N. Nitts on Metals

By Dean Collins.

Nesclus Nitts, the great Punkindorf seer,
Whose wisdom was rated as quite without peer,
Spied a spider, asleep on a packing case near,
And laid it to rest in a nicotine bier;
Then spake upon pullets, profoundly and clear.

The folks of Gold Hill, so the papers has stated,
Has got plumb aroused and become plumb elated,
Sence, killin' a chicken, they carved it and saw
A nugget of gold that reposed in its craw;
Which 'minds me of once when a similar 'casion
In '75, happened here at the Station.

Lem Lemon come round here to Higginses store,
And quick as he enters he sets up a roar;
"Look here what I got!" And displayed a gold nugget.
We looks and we clamors to know where he dug it;
And Lem says, "This here piece of gold you jest saw,
I took out from one of my grown leghorn's craw."

We gets plumb excited and hollers, "Indeed!
Where bouts in the country did this chicken feed?"
And Lem tells us where—'twas in Sprague's tater garden—
And we starts to go, but Sprague says, "Beg your pardon;
That there is my land, and I tells you right now,
You caint go prospectin' around it, no-how!"

While we was a-talkin' Theocrites Hale,
Our real estate agent, he draws outen sale
His Punkindorf lots, and he asks the advice
Of Sprague, about going and raisin' their price;
And Bailey, the butcher, he speaks up to say;
"I ain't goin' to sell no more poultry today."
Then Philomel Love, he comes in an hears tell
About this gold flurry that jest has befell;
He looks at the nugget and opens his face,
And pints to a holler front tooth. "That's the place
Sezee, "Where you'd best stake your minin' claims. See!
I lost the darned thing at the 'affy-pull bee."

There ain't no real need I should go on to tell
How prices in poultry and real estate fell.
Phil sez: "You'd best stake out some claims anyhow:
I was eatin' some turkey at Hickett's jest now,
And, jedgin' from what I bit on, I opina
Somewhere round this Station, you'll find a lead mine."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, May 29, 1862.

The following items are from the Walla Walla Statesman:

Mr. E. L. James, of Wells Fargo & Co.'s Express, exhibited to us a few days ago some two ounces of Powder River dust, brought over on Sunday last by Mr. Charles Tiley. The gold is coarse, one of the pieces weighing $9.75.

The emigration to Salmon River is still increasing. At a moderate estimate there cannot be less than 20,000 to 25,000 persons now in the mines and on the road between the city and that point.

The County of Idaho was regularly organized on the 4th inst.

Fort Pulaski, near Savannah, was surrendered to the Union forces on the anniversary of the first day's fire upon Fort Sumpter.

Washington, May 19.—Accounts from McClellan's army state that General Sumner has retired from active service in consequence of his refusal to reinforce Heinselman at the battle of Williamsburg.

New York, May 19.—News from North Carolina states that Governor Clark refused to furnish any more troops and has recalled the North Carolina troops now in the Rebel army. A convention has been held, which pronounces against furnishing further aid.

Washington, May 20.—The President today issued this proclamation: That, whereas there appears in public prints what purports to be a proclamation of Major-General Hunter and the same is producing some excitement and misunderstanding: Therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, proclaim and declare that the Government of the United States had no knowledge or belief of the intention on the part of Hunter to issue such proclamation; further, neither General Hunter nor any other commander has been authorized to make proclamation declaring slaves free; and the proclamation now in question is altogether void so far as respects such declaration.

White House, Va., May 19.—Army commenced moving early this morning in the direction of Richmond.

Washington, May 20.—Senator Sumner gave notice that he should tomorrow call up the resolution for the expulsion of Stark, of Oregon.

A large and respectable audience of the citizens of Multnomah County were addressed by the candidates for Congress, Judge Wait and J. R. McBride, yesterday afternoon.

The manner of conveying and delivery of freights to the Oregon Steam Navigation Company's steamers is getting to be quite an annoyance, if not an actual nuisance, to the city. A big row came very near resulting yesterday evening from the confused and irregular manner of receiving freights from the drays and trucks.

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

You want so many things you can do without.

Few people are as busy as they imagine they are.

If a man is naturally enthusiastic, he is punished so much for it that he soon becomes intensely practical.

A broken heart is rare; some people say there never was such a thing.

About the surest and quickest way to unpopularity is to "squelch" people.

I don't know you, but I know this about you: You don't think you look as old as you actually are.

Men are accused of so much meanness that sometimes I fear that some of us may be guilty.

When a man from Chicago opens a store in a small town, people at once have a suspicion that he is no Marshall Field.

An unhappy wretch who has been caught, preaches an eloquent sermon for morality.