

The Oregonian
PORTLAND, OREGON.
Published at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.
Subscription Rates—In Advance.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1912.

LAST HOPE OF THE CONSERVATIVES.

A conflict little, if at all, less fierce than that which threatens to split the Republican National convention will take in the Democratic National convention. At Baltimore, as at Chicago, the battle will be between radicals and conservatives, but it will be decided not according to which faction has the most delegates pledged to a certain set of principles, but according to which course is more likely to bring Democratic victory.

ECONOMY IN THE NAVY.

Millions for pensions, but not a dollar for battleships, sums up the Democratic policy of economy. The Democrats cling tenaciously to their beloved navy-yards, but allow the navy which is to use these yards to sink to fifth rank. They do not grudge money for the Panama Canal, because they leave the canal open for use by an Asiatic fleet in attacking New York or by a European fleet in attacking our Pacific ports.

USE FOR THE CANAL PLANT.

So many uses are being found for the construction plant of the Panama Canal, when the completion of that work liberates it for other uses, that, extensive as it is, it may prove too small to go around. Already we have a recommendation that it be used to build railroads and docks in Alaska and to improve the Columbia and Mississippi rivers. Probably every commodity which demands attention to make some public improvement in its vicinity will suggest the use of the canal plant.

WHY LIFE IS DIFFICULT.

Will Lifen contributes an article to the current number of the Saturday Evening Post which partially explains why the cost of living has advanced in the last few years. The author takes the case of a typical workman's family, consisting of the man, his wife, two children and a dog. He shows in detail how their expenditures differ from those of a similar family a generation ago. The father, for example, rides to his work on the street-car each morning. Had he lived twenty-five years earlier he would not have owned a car, and he would not have worn a suit of clothes. His social life is more complicated and entails many more disbursements. Their clothes are more elaborate and of more costly material. At school they need utensils of various sorts which the last generation knew only in the name of which cost money. When it comes to graduate an appropriate gown must be bought and flowers be provided, since it would be a disgrace to graduate in an unfashionable dress or to have no bouquets presented. The girl who is to receive the final honors from the public school must wear a gown which she will wear in a carriage, and worse still, she will feel slighted if she does not receive as many presents as her companions.

FLIGHTY FINANCE.

We are assured by Mr. William J. Scott, of Central Point, in a letter printed today that the author of the bill to establish a Taxpayers' National Bank in Jackson County is very much in earnest. The assurance was unnecessary. Nobody would accuse a farmer of spending his good money for printing an initiative measure just for pasture. Some city man with more money than sense might perpetrate a joke of that kind, but it is not a farmer's bill. It would be a shame for the author's pocketbook, however, if he had heeded the advice of the several lawyers, who, he said in a previous letter, would not touch his measure. One great obstacle to the success of the measure is the inability of Jackson County or the State of Oregon to back the National banking laws. We don't know that the lawyers so advised the author of the bill. Perhaps they merely laughed or turned up their noses. Therefore a brief discussion of the subject may cool the ardor of the author and prove diverting to the bankers for once. The bill as drafted is not very definite, but as we understand it the authors propose that Jackson County shall bond itself for \$1,500,000, deposit the bonds with the Government with the expectation of receiving an equivalent sum in currency, and then through a National bank, chartered for the purpose, pay out this currency from time to time in building roads. The bonds are to draw no interest, and the middle man will be cut out. It is also argued that Jackson County will not have the money to back the bonds in excess of the constitutional limitation. There are several obstacles in the National banking act to the carrying out of this interesting scheme in high finance. The Government will accept only Government bonds as security for a National bank issue. Jackson County bonds are not Government bonds. A banknote issue cannot exceed the amount of paid-up capital of a National bank. Therefore the seven directors provided for in the bill would have to raise \$1,500,000 before they could obtain a bank charter under which they could issue \$1,500,000 in notes.

THE SOIL THE SOURCE OF PROSPERITY.

Prosperity of the farmer spreads through all other industries. The great crops assured to the Northwest have caused the Harriman lines to buy cars in which to carry them, thus extending prosperity to the lumberman, the steel manufacturer and the car builder. Increased traffic requires improvements in track and terminals, which furnish more business to the lumberman, the rail mill and the building material man. The farmer is supplied by his large crops at good prices with money for the erection of new buildings, improvement of old ones, purchase of new implements and cultivation of more land. The volume of business done by the lumberman, the hardware man, the implement man is swelled by these activities. More men are employed to make these improvements, and they increase the trade of the storekeeper in village or in city, who makes larger demands on the manufacturer of every commodity. The mills of the great industries work full time and are enlarged to meet the demand, spreading prosperity among their workmen and among those who supply material for manufacture and buildings as well as machinery. As many of these machines

permitted to deal, had been received for them. There are other obstacles, but supposing they didn't exist, here are enough to destroy every merit claimed for the plan. Jackson County would have to borrow the money for the bank's capital stock and to buy bonds to secure a banknote issue. It would then have to issue negotiable paper, say interest-bearing warrants, in order to get the money out of its own bank to pay for the roads. It could not borrow the money in the first instance, as the other hand, the necessities of life actually cost more, item for item, than they did of yore. All living is high living compared with conditions of half a century ago.

The economic problem is not explained at all by remarking that we have many plans and automobiles to the extent of fifty years ago now costs 60 cents. The egg which the hens of olden time produced was as large and nutritious as any that can be obtained now, but the eggs of today cost four or five times as much as those of old, and Angeline's new plan does not explain the phenomenon. No doubt some of our troubles arise from what Mr. Hill felicitously calls "the cost of high living." No doubt the American people display a resolute determination to live as high as they possibly can, but on the other hand, the necessities of life actually cost more, item for item, than they did of yore. All living is high living compared with conditions of half a century ago.

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IMMIGRANTS BY SEA.

ANGELOPE, Or., May 29.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly publish the proportion of women to men among our European immigrants and oblige. A READER.

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

When a man gets into serious difficulty, it is pitiful to see him flounder around; not one man in a hundred can handle an emergency successfully. The worst thing that can happen to a poor man is to get in the way of associating with men who have a good deal of money. A stately man is not popular; but you must have noticed that he always has money. People hate those who "pick" at them; and they have a right to. When you fool a man, you harm him; when you instruct him, you benefit him. There are plenty of able men in this country; but there is a woeful lack of candid, courageous men who accept the truth, and act upon it. You are always talking of your rights. The first and most important is the right to take care of yourself. When a man writes or talks a great deal, and people pay no attention, it never occurs to him that there may be some other reason for his being ignored. The people are "dull." Men do the best they can, and the critics say: "That isn't the best way."

Features of the SUNDAY OREGONIAN

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Polo in Portland—A page, with photos, of local enthusiasts and the development of the game in this city.

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Hats and the Man

By Dean Collins.

"I've noticed," I remarked one morn. While slipping hot cakes over my plate, "I said, and forked another cake: 'Bury all his wife's and daughters hats.' Right versatile I call that fellow." No answer came from Arabella.

I slipped my coffee. "Papers say it is a sign of peaceful bent. When Wilhelm turns from army schemes to domestic habitation." But Arabella sniffed at it. And passed the cream disdainfully. "Peaceful? Well all that may depend on what his wife says in the end."

"Oh, she should be delighted, sure," I said, and forked another cake: "I fancy I could pick a hat." "That such a kindly mind as his? Such interest in her dress should lead to a more domestic bent." But Arabella cried out, "Oh no!" Spilling the cream on her kimono. "Anyone knows, dead easy, that no man has taste to pick a hat."

I frowned and stirred my breakfast food. While Arabella mopped the cream: "Your dear old man's taste to me wholly inconsequential, really. Women do not appreciate men's talents, which are really great. It is the woman's duty to be kind. She said: 'Is that so?—Just like that. I dallied with a soft bodied egg: 'Yes, that's so'—I just like that." "And just to prove it, I shall go. Right down and pick you out a hat. I saw floppy purple thing. With beads sewed on it in a string. And bows of foxy pink and blue—'You'll work as usual,' she cried. 'And when you go and draw your pay, you'll promptly bring it here, and I shall pick my hat the same old way! I gipped my coffee and I lied. Arabella!"

PORTLAND, May 30.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 21, 1862. The state is determining whether Oregon is a secession state or whether she is true to the star-spangled banner and the Union. Words are made up his mind how he will vote. We are certain that Union men will stand by the Union and vote for the ticket which will give them a "kick-back" that will prove such a "setback" as shall cause them to "kick-back" beneath their deformed "Union" banner.

The above was suggested upon learning that the Advertiser is to make its appearance about 2 o'clock this forenoon. New York, May 23.—Nassau dates to the 15th state of the 30 rebel vessels were there awaiting the termination of the war, preferring inaction to certain capture by the blockaders, who, they now acknowledge, have effectually sealed the Southern ports.

A MORNING ORISON.

Behold the sunlight glisten
Upon the brow of night!
Behold the song birds listen
And bathe themselves in light!
Feel now the silence quiver
With faintest touch of noise.
And through the earth a "diver"
Of coming noontide joys.
The azure skies are bending
To lean the bicorne on earth,
And life, fresh life, unending,
Springs from the soil beneath.

O mystery of being!

The consciousness to know!
The breath, the sense of seeing.
The hearing all things grow!
Oh God! Eternal fountain!
Unwrought, unfettered, free,
My soul ascends life's mountain,
To drink new draughts of thee!
REV. H. S. GEORGE, LAKESIDE,
Olympia, Wash.

WILLIAM J. SCOTT.

BEN DAVIS APPLE IS DENOUNCED

MARKETING OF VARIETY DECLARED TO INJURE OREGON FRUIT REPUTATION

ASHLAND, Or., May 29.—(To the Editor.)—I have invented the Ben Davis apple lives in Arkansas, at least when last heard from he was yet unborn in that state, which grew up there that lynch law fell short of its requirements. An Oregon orchardist who permits a Ben Davis apple tree to disfigure the landscape should be anathema maritima to all patriotic fruitgrowers and anathema to all patriotic merchants. An Oregon commission merchant who ships Ben Davis apples to the Eastern markets as Oregon apples is a traitor to the state and fit for strait-jacket and asylum. I have felt it a pleasant duty during my eight years' official sojourn in Washington City to enlighten the contained Eastern markets as to the real character of the Pacific Slope, having a residential experience in California, Alaska and Oregon to bank on, and especially as to the superiority of our progress, some converts, and been the cause of several families locating in Oregon. Oregon apples, however, are not the Oregon apples, have always been my winning weapon in controversy, but during the last few months an unusual quantity of Ben Davis apples have reached the Washington City markets and I have been confounded and almost annihilated several times by brother clerks in the departments. One of these Ben Davis apples, which I had purchased apples at fruit stands, nicely wrapped, out of boxes, marked "Oregon Apples," and got a prima donna striped and saw dust. On one corner of the box, I found on tracing the purchase, could be found, in small rubber stamp, the name "Ben Davis," which was a guide for the dealer, conveyed no information to the purchaser who was the ultimate consumer, having paid the price of the apple and found himself glib-flamed, was justified in the use of adjective loaded, explosive language. The Ben Davis is not an Oregon apple and ought not to be raised or marketed by fruitgrowers in whom the pride of state, Oregon in Excelsis Naturae, maintains a healthy circulation. My conclusion I say, the Ben Davis apple is a fraud, a delusion and a snare, and should be frowned upon by all real Oregonians.

Miss Martin's Letter.

PORTLAND, Or., May 28.—(To the Editor.)—The article on "Women's Suffrage and Children," which appeared in The Oregonian Tuesday morning should have been signed by Miss I. T. Martin instead of by the press committee. (Signed.)

Mrs. Francis James Bailey.

President of the Oregon State Association Opposed to Women Suffrage.

Does anybody know what the 115-day expert is investigating around the Courthouse?

Walters at New York hotels strike, but the customers continue meekly to give tips.

The Beavers are getting into the habit again.

Richard Harding Davis' literary career is nearly complete. His wife has sued for divorce.

Bonner County, Idaho, having given prohibition a trial, has gone back to the real article.

MAX PRACHET.