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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1912.

A HORRIBLE PREDICAMENT.

There is poignant anxiety among the Democrats. When they set the meeting of their National convention for one week later than that of the Republicans, they estimated that a week would be ample time for their opponents to settle their differences and thus to furnish a guide to Democratic action. The possibility of a prolonged struggle at Chicago over contested delegates, then over platform and finally over the nominations, also the possibility of a bolt following those nominations, have given rise to fear that the Chicago circus may not be ended before the Baltimore hippodrome opens.

The Democrats have for many years made a practice of waiting to see what the Republicans do before they do anything. When the Republicans have voted to commend or recommend any course, past or proposed, the Democrats have their cue what to denounce or deplore. When the Republicans have voted to denounce or deplore, then the Democrats know to what they can safely point with pride or commendation or what they can recommend. When the Republicans have nominated a radical, the Democrats can safely nominate a conservative or a more extreme radical, or vice versa.

But what a horrible predicament the Democrats would be in were the Republican convention to be prolonged beyond the day when their own convention meets! If they were to proceed regardless of Republican action and were to adopt a platform which, in violation of all precedent, expressed their honest convictions, they might discover to their horror that they had pointed with pride to or denounced and deplored the same achievements as the Republicans had pointed to, denounced or deplored; that they had recommended the same policies as the Republicans had recommended. They would then discover to their dismay that they had deprived their party of all excuse for existence and that no course remained open except to indorse the Republican platform and ticket and to dissolve their organization.

That such a catastrophe might be averted, the Democratic convention might find necessary adjournment from day to day until the Republican convention adopted a platform. Its own platform committee would remain in continuous session with a pile of well-planed, tongued and grooved planks piled before it. In these would be blank spaces, wherein would be inserted at the last moment the words "point with pride" or "denounce and deplore," according to the breathlessly-awaited messages from Chicago. In like manner, when the Republicans were balloting for nominations, the Democrats would be assembled in agonizing suspense, ready to hop from Clark or Underwood to Bryan or Wilson as one faction or another of their opponents came uppermost. The feats of the lightning change artist would be fairly outdone.

The permanent position of opposition held by the Democratic party has the advantage of giving greater freedom and less responsibility than holding office, but it also has its drawbacks. The worst of these is that the party never knows what to oppose until the other party has decided what to do.

A MATHEMATICAL FAILURE.

Mr. U'Ren does not seem to have complete faith in his mathematical constitution, otherwise known as the cabinet government plan. This complicated system of proportional and proxy representation we had supposed was intended to purge the Legislature of all impurities, corruptions and evil intentions. With the mathematical constitution in force we had fondly imagined that the Secretary of State, after each election, would take a pencil and pad of paper and figure out of office all plainly undesirable candidates for the assembly. We had marveled over the brilliancy of a plan that was to cure the evils of government by arithmetical computations, but, with due recognition of human frailties, had firmly hoped that by choosing each legislator from a potpourri of figures and giving him 2000 votes, more or less, to cast on each measure, his conscience would be livened and his moral perspective clarified to degrees of perfection.

But alas! Our hopes and marvels and imaginings are dashed to earth. The one-lunged Legislature will not be perfect. Mr. U'Ren, himself, has deemed it necessary to revise his constitution and actually to put in it a brand new inhibition against his mathematically purified lawmakers. The Legislature of the Utopian era promised by the figuring U'Ren must not appropriate any money for initiating or referring laws, or create any commission to prepare an initiative petition.

Who would suspect, after grasping fully all the details of the proposed mathematical constitution, that a proportionalized and proxified Legislature would need to be prohibited from committing such crimes as these? It is true that the last Legislature, unpurged by multiplication, division, the rule of three or algebraic equations, and therefore an irresponsible, wasteful bunch of politicians, committed one of the proscribed acts. It actually invaded Mr. U'Ren's own preserves from which he reaps, with the assistance of Mr. Fels, an annual income. In other words, it created a commission to revise the tax laws.

Now nobody in Oregon knows anything about taxation except Mr. U'Ren and perhaps a few paid advisers and Mr. U'Ren has ample money at his command to initiate all the tax legislation he thinks we ought to have, and he will do anything he thinks ought to be done for us along that line. Other citizens haven't access to a foreign war chest and are consequently barred from presenting their necessarily crude theories of taxation unless they are brave enough to spend their own money—a vain expectation. So it was therefore really a moral crime for the Legislature to break into Mr. U'Ren's pasture.

But what have the misdemeanors of past Legislatures got to do with a legislature seated and hallowed by balancing quantitative relations?

If the new body of lawmakers sanctified by ratio and proportion is expected to kick back at the only competent and certified lawgiver of the state what's the use of putting through the scheme? If ratio and proportion, remainders, minority proxies and the powers of calculus will not give us a perfect Legislature, let us investigate deeper before we revise the fundamental law. Has the figuring U'Ren ever tried to combine astrology and politics? Is it not possible that the dark of the moon has queered many of our elections?

SMOOT'S ALASKA COAL BILL.

If Senator Smoot's Alaska coal land bill is passed at this session, the present Congress will have at least one piece of good work to its credit. If both parties can place patriotism above partisanship and can close their ears to selfish interest, it will pass. If the Democrats and insurgents follow habit, the announcement that the bill is backed by the Administration will be sufficient excuse, to their minds, for tearing it to pieces and throwing the pieces in the waste basket.

The provision for a royalty based on the selling price of coal is to be greatly preferred to those hitherto proposed, exacting a fixed royalty. It gives the Government, as the owner, a fair share of the selling price of coal as the price rises and falls, graduated according to the lessee's ability to pay. The fixed royalty might be oppressive to the lessee when the price is low, but totally inadequate when the price is high. The limit of 3200 acres for any one lease is sufficient for a good, workable mine under modern methods, while the provision that no person shall be interested in more than one lease is a good safeguard against consolidation. The anti-trust law, vigorously and vigilantly administered, can prevent combination of leases. The clause requiring a minimum rental per acre will compel lessees to mine coal instead of holding the land unproductive.

By providing for the extinction of private ownership, the bill contemplates making the leasing system well-nigh universal in Alaska. This provision was necessary in order that isolated tracts held under patent may not prevent the leasing of solid blocks of land. Prohibition of railroad ownership will prevent duplication of the situation which now obtains in the Pennsylvania anthracite field, while extension to Alaska railroads of the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission will prevent any such gouging of the miner as has contributed to formation of the anthracite monopoly.

Representative Sulzer's bill for the construction of Government railroads in Alaska is not inconsistent with the main provisions of the Smoot bill, but its adoption may prompt the rejection of the provisions granting right of way to private corporations. The two bills, taken together, would open the way to the development of Alaska on an extensive scale and, as one emanates from a regular Republican, and is in line with the policy of the insurgents, the other from a Democrat, there is a good opportunity to ignore partizan considerations and unite for the general good.

CONFIDENCE MEN IN REAL LIFE.

Our writers of frenzied finance fiction are being continually outdone by the vultures of real life. What popular tale have you read that can rival in ingenuity of plot and setting the case of Death Valley "Scotty?"

Out of the forbidding fastnesses of an uninhabitable district came a miner of leathern visage and seemingly unlimited coin. Exhibiting huge rolls of currency, he threw small bills to the winds and following caprice after caprice, put his money into all sorts of unique coups. He was heralded far and near as a wanton spendthrift who was certain to come to grief and die in want.

Occasionally he would disappear into the mysterious wastes of Death Valley only to return with cash in abundance which he would hasten to put into circulation in reckless and spectacular fashion.

Who would suspect that behind the capers of this primitive, big-fisted spendthrift there was a crooked mining stock company quietly selling stock in his mine of fabulous wealth? Who suspected that he was merely the capper in a swindling game? Of course, it's all absurdly simple, now that Scotty has confessed—his game having been worked dry and his employers having cut off his golden stream.

So now Scotty may return to some obscure mining camp to work as capper for a faro layout, his erstwhile employers may seek greener fields and the public may prepare to be taken in anon by some brand new confidence game.

FORGETTING THINGS.

One of the Eastern newspapers seeks to break the monotony of politics for its readers by giving them an account of the articles which the careless public loses in the streetcars of New York day after day. The tale is disconcerting. It scarcely raises our opinion of human nature, for in order to esteem our fellow man we must have some ground for believing that he is at least partially rational and the articles forgotten and left behind in the New York streetcars seem to indicate that the majority of those who ride are crazy.

Think of a man with one leg going off without his crutches. Dozens of them do that very thing on the subways and elevated trains. One man even forget his shirt. The day was excessively warm and he took it off in the gloom of the subway to enjoy the grateful coolness which surrounded him. Departing in haste, as subway passengers are apt to do, he left the garment hanging on a hook and issued forth into the smiling world shirtless. Eyeglasses are forgotten by their owners as often as anything else, a fact which proves, perhaps, that most people wear them for style instead of use. At one of the stations in New York where lost articles may be reclaimed there were twenty-five quarts of eyeglasses awaiting the arrival of their owners the other day.

Persons who carry their umbrellas after a storm is over are pretty certain to forget them. An umbrella is at best a cumbersome companion. The shelter it affords is disappointingly meager. When the rain comes straight down the umbrella keeps it off until it begins to drive through and then the fine, enveloping mist is worse than the direct downpour. If there is any breeze at all the protection which an umbrella gives is purely fanciful. It guards the head, which can stand any amount of wetting without harm, but it leaves the feet at the mercy of the storm and everybody knows what the consequence of wet feet is. The point we wish to make is that the umbrella is an article of luxury rather than use. Besides that it is dangerous. A person carrying an umbrella under his arm becomes a public menace. Every eye in his neighborhood exists only on sufferance. We may reasonably suppose, therefore, that it is a guilty conscience which causes the umbrella-owner to leave his possession behind when he gets off the car.

But what causes him to leave the book he has been reading? The New York statistics show that just about all the books taken into the streetcars are left on the seats by absent-minded passengers. It is the same with women's purses and men's hats. A woman never forgets her hat, but it is one of the first articles which a man forsakes when he is in a hurry.

SEEDLESS APPLES.

The seedless apple has been discovered again, for perhaps the twentieth time. It is a Delaware man who comes to the front now with the inestimable boon. When we last heard of it, five or six years ago, it was heralded as the epoch-making product of a Wisconsin investigator's genius and patient toil. Who will be the next unveiler of this great mystery we cannot prophesy, but it will be somebody.

The seedless apple reappears regularly once in about five years. There are only two objections to it which we can think of. The first is that it is not seedless. The second is that it is not fit to eat. The only seedless apples we have ever seen, and we have been much favored by enthusiastic discoverers, had well-marked seeds in the usual places and a perfectly perceptible core. But that was of little consequence. Seeds and a core are no particular drawback to an apple if it is otherwise desirable. But when the fruit is small and hard and bitter, the fact that its seeds are inconspicuous does not atone for its other defects. If a really seedless apple should be produced, it would not be worth while.

If it were worth while we should have had it long ago, for it involves no insurmountable difficulty. All that an orchardist has to to do to evolve a seedless apple is to select specimens in which the seeds exhibit a tendency to abort and propagate from them. In a few generations the desired modification is sure to appear, and if the process has been properly conducted the grafts from it will come true. Mendel's laws enable plant breeders to predict with almost complete certainty what the outcome of a given cross will be. Hybrids are no longer a subject for vague guesswork. The art of producing new varieties with any desired trait has become as well understood as plowing.

The trouble with the seedless quality in apples is that it is not a particularly desirable trait. Very few object to the seeds. Many persons relish their flavor and tradition has invested them with fancies which it is just as well not to sacrifice needlessly. The core is a different matter. Its scaly parts are annoying, and to remove them causes trouble and expense. If somebody would propagate a coreless apple retaining the spicy seeds, the world would be grateful to him.

HOME CREDITS IN SCHOOL.

Mr. L. R. Alderman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is a man of original ideas. Some of his projects for bettering the conditions of the rural schools have been widely discussed and bid fair to make their way into acceptance throughout the country. One of the most noteworthy of these projects is that of allowing credit in the public schools for work of various kinds done at home. The supposition underlying the plan is that parents are as good judges of their children's performances as the teacher is likely to be and that their estimate ought to be accepted at its true value. Book studies are not included in this scheme. It applies only to those departments of modern education in which it may be fairly assumed that parents are competent to pass an opinion. But since textbooks are counting for less and less every day in the public schools and the practical affairs of life are coming to the front there seems to be no reason why Mr. Alderman's plan to enlist the forces of the home in the education of the child should not be carried far.

Textbook instruction never has been of any particular benefit to children. It is commonly regarded as something quite inestimably precious, but there are no facts to justify such a view of it. Nobody is quite frantic enough to believe that a child actually learns how to do anything useful by studying a book, but we are taught to cherish the dogma that the poor little creature acquires a chimerical something called "mental discipline" which makes him capable of all sorts of miraculous achievements. Of course the child does not get any mental discipline in an old-fashioned school. The effect of his studies upon his mind is the exact contrary to discipline or anything else desirable. We all know what really happens to a pupil's intelligence when he has been in school several years. He "hates" all his studies. The outcome of every one of his mental excursions is ignorance darkly tinged with loathing. This is perfectly natural. If we had taken pains to study the mind of the young we should have perceived long ago that the only way to reach their intelligence for any purpose but mental murder is through their muscles. Naturally there are exceptions to this rule. There are precocious children who take to abstractions like a duck to water and there are abnormal specimens who are congenitally so indolent that no appeal can be made through their motor nerves, but the exceptions are not numerous.

Mr. Alderman's project for home education relies purely upon the motor processes. The instruction is all to be in the various sorts of useful activity, and, it is agreeable to add, it will all have an ethical trend. The reports which he has published of the work as far as it has gone are highly encouraging in this particular. It has a marked tendency to strengthen the family ties, to create interdependence between children and parents, to teach the young to take up their proper share of the burdens of life and bear them cheerfully. The plan of giving credit to children for work done at home has been tried by Mr. A. I. O'Reilly, of the Spring Valley School, perhaps as extensively as by any other teacher in the state. His judgment of its moral benefit is contained in the words "it is the best thing I have ever tried in the way of getting the children in complete sympathy with both school and home duties." How much more satisfactory to teach in this way a morality which works out in practical efficiency than to swallow precepts out of textbooks which lead to nothing but mental indigestion and ethical imbecility. It is instructive to read the accounts which Mr. Alderman publishes of the working of his new system in the home. "Before this plan was started," said a motherly country woman, "I got up in the morning and prepared breakfast for the family and after breakfast prepared the children for school. Now the girls insist upon my lying in bed while they get breakfast. Then they wash the dishes, sweep the floor and prepare themselves for school." Scholastic pedagogues may sneer at common matters of this kind, but the philosophic student of sociology sees the future welfare of the nation safeguarded in precisely these simple facts.

But the old-fashioned textbook teacher will shriek in alarm, "What mental discipline do the children get? How will they ever learn to extract the cube root by this home instruction?" Heaven be praised, they will never learn to extract the cube root. But of mental discipline, and especially of spiritual discipline, they get infinitely more than they ever have from the conventional curriculum of the public schools. Some of the credits which Mr. O'Reilly allows are extremely interesting and suggestive. For example he awards five minutes for building the fire in the morning; ten minutes for splitting and carrying in twelve hours' supply of wood; thirty minutes for preparing the family breakfast, and so on. Do we not here behold life itself in all its multifarious aspects invading the schools and making them true upbuilders of democracy? Mr. O'Reilly lays as much stress on the hygienic virtues as Moses did when he was legislating for the Hebrews. A credit of thirty minutes is allowed for bathing, five minutes for sleeping with the window open, ten minutes for going to bed by 9 o'clock. What have we in this but a whole scheme of practical morality put into operation without fuss or parade, but with the highest efficiency?

Mr. Alderman makes the following comment upon the results in Mr. O'Reilly's district: "It is the universal testimony of the parents in this district that the children are co-operating with them and becoming interested in the home as never before." Another remarkable comment comes from Superintendent E. B. Conklin, of Ontario, who has been using the plan. "Education should make us more willing and efficient workers. If it doesn't what is its use? The foolish notion should no longer prevail that education is to teach us to make a living without work." When Mr. Alderman visited Ontario not long ago a number of parents came to him, he says, "with enthusiastic approval of the way the plan was working." What is there to hinder trying it throughout the state?

Bugs are the bane of man's existence. In olden times an occasional apple held a worm. Now the grower must spray before the leaves form and keep at it or lose his crop. All fruits are likewise affected. Vegetables, too, are prey of the creeping and crawling destroyers. Even the potato—the lowly, humble potato, food of poor and rich—is threatened by bacteria. Years ago, when we knew not of bacteria or germ, we blamed the moon for being dark at planting time. Where will be the end, none can say. It may be in time the race will be affected. Then will come lime-sulphur for the parents and Bordeaux for the offspring, and a new Jeremiah give voice to lamentations. Pending all this and the news from Chicago and Baltimore, let us spray.

Why, the idea! Bruce Dennis and Dr. Coe having their pictures taken with Ormsby McHarg! Is not Ormsby McHarg the emissary sent to Oregon by the bosses four years ago to break down Statement One? Are not Dennis and Coe representatives of an emancipated people? Are they not products of the people's rule exercised through a preferential primary safeguarded from machine corruption by proportional voting? And now for them to consort with McHarg! Horrible!

Nobody need be pessimistic over the year's potato crop. That it will be large, owing to increased acreage and favorable conditions, is certain. Yet there never will be a time when the Oregon potato is too cheap to return a profit on labor and expense. The quality is a big factor.

The statement of one of Roosevelt's lieutenants that the Colonel is absolute boss does not agree with the action of some of his managers in trying to suppress the speech in which he hinted at a bolt. There seems to be mutiny in the ranks.

Payne is well qualified to discuss chaos, for he is an expert in producing it. The tariff which bears his name had more to do with producing the present political chaos than any other single cause.

Get the battleship Oregon for Elks' week. Listen not to excuse or evasion—bring her to Portland. This state is proud of her and hundreds of thousands will delight to do her honor.

Everybody is weary of the misleading mathematics by which Dixon and McKinley each elects his man, and yearns for the ballot, which alone is unerring.

Men and women of the '50s have the right of way, with those of the '40s in the place of honor. The dates of their arrival were great days for the Oregon country.

Scotty's own confession reduces him from the rank of the most spectacular of spendthrifts to that of sandwich man for J. Rufus Wallingfords.

People who wonder why vessels collide on the broad sea will be lost in contemplation of the collision of biplanes over France yesterday.

The marriage of a Pittsburg heiress to a Saxon nobleman is heralded as a true love match. Nobleman's love of money, perhaps.

The free employment bureau is out of politics while changing horses.

Cut your weeds before the officer calls.

Stars and Star-Makers

By Leone Cass Baer.

Marie Flynn, the little prima donna who visited us this season as Yvette in "Madame Sherry," is to be billed as the second Edna May. She is little known in the East and her new manager, George W. Lederer, is resting great hopes on her appearance at the premier of "The Charity Girl," a new musical comedy. It was formerly known as "The Clairvoyant," with Edward Peple as the author and the score by Victor Hollaendes.

* * *

Mabel Hite, whose serious illness is recorded in the daily papers, has a great following of admirers in Portland, where she has appeared on the Orpheum circuit with her husband, Mike Donlin. Until her recent illness she has been in vaudeville at the Alhambra Theater in New York. Miss Hite has not been well for several weeks and has fulfilled her vaudeville engagements against the advice of her physicians. On several occasions she has collapsed upon leaving the stage, and it was only by the exercise of great will power that she appeared last week at the Colonial. When her company assembled at the Alhambra last Monday afternoon they were notified that Miss Hite was confined to her bed. The aggregation of "clowns" remained on the bill, however, presenting their singing and dancing numbers.

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Charles Yule, who was a member of Max Figman's company at the Heilig last Summer, is seriously ill in San Jose with blood poisoning.

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One scents a press agent in the stories that have been in circulation relative to the disappearance of May Yohe, for now comes the announcement of her engagement at Hammerstein's Roof Garden.

The typewritten paragraph that contains this news states that Miss Yohe's disappearance was "sensational" and that the entire country was agitated thereby. The "entire country" in this instance presumably means Oscar Hammerstein and his boy press agent, Loney Haskell.

At any rate, Miss Yohe will oblige next Monday. She will render two songs, and, according to the gentlemanly press representative, "do a monologue dealing with the nuptial affairs of her former husbands, Lord Francis Hope and Putnam Bradlee Strong."

Loney Haskell, by the way, is the same dreary monologist who entertains (?) us annually via vaudeville. Naturally, we feel a bit interested in all he writes about May Yohe, as she resided in this city for a year and is one of Portland's own, as it were. That is, if by any chance she makes good at Hammerstein's. If she doesn't—well, she is just May Yohe again.

* * *

Frank A. Tilden, who has been out here once each season with one production or another, comes to the Heilig tonight in "The Real Thing" with Henrietta Crosman, who makes her first visit since the one two years ago in Percy Mackaye's comedy "Anti-Matrimony."

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Five vaudevillists in Portland this week are paying their first visit to the city since 1888, when they appeared here as children in a bicycle act. They are the members of the family of eight Elliott Savonas, now on the boards at the Orpheum in a musical act. Before coming to Portland in 1888 the Elliott children were featured with P. T. Barnum's circus and their tour west was delayed by a suit filed against Barnum, who was accused of "cruelty to children" by presenting the youngsters in their bicycle turn. Barnum was acquitted after the children performed before a committee of physicians and teachers, who decided the circus act of the boy and girl performers was healthful exercise. Later, the Elliotts came to Portland for an engagement at John Cort's Standard Theater at First and Madison streets. Bicycles were dropped 12 years ago by the Elliotts for their present vaudeville musical act. Mrs. James Elliott and Mrs. Tom Elliott then joined the performers, and Violet, the youngest girl of the family, also takes part. Mrs. Margaret Elliott, stepmother of the family, is manageress of the act and helps to tend "props" behind the scenes. She has presided over the circus and theatrical career of the Elliott family from the time of its first appearance before the public.

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Speaking of Miss Countess, the husband and business manager of that lady has arrived and has taken his office at the Heilig, preparatory to the coming of the stock company July 19, which Miss Countess opens in "The Thief."

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Rumor says Jack Barrymore will be the successor of Lewis Stone in the Belasco stock at Los Angeles.

* * *

Theodore Roberts has closed his Orpheum time in "The Sheriff of Shasta" and gone to Catalina for a vacation.

* * *

Here is a good one on Billy Dills. Billy, as everyone knows, is an actor and member of Baker Stock Company. In fact, he has been a member of Baker Stock Company ever since there has been one, and the only present member who was in the very first company George L. Baker ever organized. As a "make-up" artist Billy has quite a record, and that it is not a vain glory is proved by the following incident. During the evening parades last week the curtain did not go up until after the parades had passed, but in order to be ready immediately the company members were obliged to have their "make-ups" on, and in these they stole into secluded places and watched the parades. Now Billy Dills and his wife reside in a nearby family hotel kept by a very fine old Southern couple. The windows of the Dills' apartments overlook the street, so Billy hit upon the idea of getting all ready to play his role of the villain in "Wildfire" and then slipping over when no one was looking and watching the parade with his wife from the window. As he passed through the hall the host spied him and glared suspiciously, but Bill, unconscious of his changed appearance, made some alleged funny remark and went upstairs. Footsteps followed him, but he did not look around. When he entered the room, the steps stopped just outside the door. "Someone's following me," said Bill. "Who?" asked Mrs. Dills. "I don't know—open the door suddenly and catch him." Mrs. Dills did so and there stood the host and the look in his eyes cannot be described in cold type. Surprise and anger predominated, but, evidently not wishing to create a disturbance, he turned and left, and still the Dills were not "wise." After the parade they went downstairs to the office. Here the frost amounted to a regular silver thaw and Mrs. Dills' cheerful greetings and praise of the electric parade were met with cold and ominous silence. The old man was writing at the desk and never looked up, evidently intent upon getting his literary achievement finished immediateiq. Suddenly he started to hand Mrs. Dills the paper, when a chance remark caused Billy to tumble to the cause of the whole affair—his landlord thought he was what he had made himself up to represent in the play—a deep, double-dyed villain—and that during the real Bill's absence at the theater, his wife was watching the parade from her window with a gay Lothario. The paper, which was Mrs. Dills' notice to leave the hotel, was quickly crumpled up in the host's hand and he made a slide for the door and disappeared, followed by a chorus of laughter in which even the surprised landlady joined. Billy says he will watch parades in the future from the theater when his make-up is on.

ARE THE VOTERS BETTER OFF?

Bend Man Reviews Political Issues, Old and New.

BEND, Or., June 17.—(To the Editor.)—In 1896 we had Bryan and free silver, and it was surprising to see how near it came to carrying the day. The only thing that saved the country was the length of time between the nomination and the election. The Great Moses of the people first jumped at the free silver proposition as the only salvation (and our Democratic friends to this day blame Cleveland for disrupting the party by keeping on a gold basis), but the facts were, the more the people studied the silver question the more they become convinced that we must have a standard of money and that gold, which at that time was worth, bullion value, silver 49c to gold 100c. Again in 1900, our friend, W. J. Bryan, was our standard-bearer on the Democratic side. He had forgot all about the silver bugaboo—it was imperialism instead. He did mention the fact that owing to the production of gold in Alaska the money question was no longer an issue. But did the American people believe this, when the plain facts were that we, as a Nation, had borrowed the gold from the foreign nations and they, during the Cleveland administration, fearful that we were going to pay them back in silver dollars worth 49c, were anxious. So in 1896, after McKinley's election, our foreign friends saw that we, as a Nation, were honest after all, and they did not want any more of their gold, but were ready to loan it back to us. How soon times changed for the better! And after Bryan's defeat in 1900 you heard nothing of imperialism. It looks as though the Democratic party wanted only to be on the wrong side of every question and that is the case to this day. I have watched them closely, for the Bible says, "Read all and hold fast to that which is good," and I have carefully read all sides, but am all at sea for that which is good.

Now, after 12 years of prosperity, we are on the edge of despair. The country has grown and prospered. We have trusts galore. The railroads have consolidated into great systems. We have the Interstate Commerce Commission, the referendum, the direct primary, the recall of judges and the Lord only knows what next. But are we any better off now than in the old times? Have we got better men in our public offices than in the good old days when we had state conventions? You know, in those days if the conventions did not put up good, clean men, they stood no show of election, for the dear people had a chance at them at the polls, and they generally used it.

Now, what bothers me more than anything else is the direct primary. Is it good or bad? Does it represent the people?

Let us take our own state, for instance. We hold primaries on the 18th of April. We have got to register that we are either Democrat or Republican, and it seems there are a good many more Republicans than Democrats vote at the primaries. But when the November election comes around we seem to have elected a Democratic Governor, and we have one Democratic Senator in a state that is Republican by 35,000 to 40,000 majority. Now, why is this? Is it not the plain facts that our Democratic brethren vote the Republican ticket at the primaries to help the Republicans nominate their weakest man, so he can easily be beaten at the polls. I know of several instances here in this little city that Democrats voted for T. R. delegates, but said they would not vote for Mr. Roosevelt in November, even if he were nominated. If that is the case here, would it not be the case all over the state? And then again, what about the 40 per cent or over that did not vote at the primaries? They generally vote at the November elections.

How will they vote? Does the primary give the correct will of the people, any more than the old-time conventions? Don't the politicians all appear at the primaries the same as at the conventions, and do the plain people take any more interest in the primaries than in the old convention days? These are the questions I would like to know. A. H. BLACK.

DEFENSE OF MEDICAL LEAGUE

Exponent Denies That Organization Is Opposed to Progress.

PORTLAND, June 18.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial this morning you say that the League for Medical Freedom is opposed to the progress of scientific medicine. May I ask for space to comment upon the league and that for which it stands?

Advocating freedom to choose a system or school of healing does not necessarily mean opposition to progress. The league is opposed to and is fighting what? A medical trust which would force upon the people through the power of the Government the acceptance of a special school of medicine—namely the allopathic school. It must not be thought by this that the league is fighting the allopathic school—it is not. Medicine is not an exact and finished science such as mathematics, and while the league admits the excellence and worth of the splendid doctors of the allopathic school it simply realizes that this school has not the whole of science. The establishment of a National health department would force upon the American people the acceptance of this one school of medicine only. And not only that but would in a short time corrupt what is now the noblest of professions by mixing it with our National politics. There is no place in politics or in Government control for medicine or religion, both of which must remain free from compulsion. No matter how much the adherents of a special school of healing claim for their system, it is the right of every free-born American to choose for himself the remedy he prefers, whether it be allopathy, homeopathy, osteopathy or any other system. Neither the league nor any member of it opposes sanitation, quarantine or pure food laws, but they do most emphatically oppose the creation of a medical trust which under the guise of concern for the public health would use the protection of the Government to suppress every system of healing but one, thus denying to the individual the right of personal choice. F. R. G.

Home-Promoter's Breathing Spell.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

Frederick Townsend Martin, apropos of the extravagance of the idle rich, said at a dinner:

"I hear of a case in point. The wife of an overworked promoter said at breakfast:

"'Will you post this letter for me, dear? It's to the furrier, countermanding my order for that $900 sable and ermine stole. You'll be sure to remember?'

"The tired eyes of the harassed, happy promoter lit up with joy. He seized a skipping rope that lay with a heap of dolls and toys in a corner, and, going to his wife, said:

"'Here, tie my right hand to my left foot, so I won't forget.'"

Information About Convention.

PORTLAND, June 18.—(To the Editor.)—In view of the fact of the present widespread interest in the convention, can you enlighten some of us on certain points regarding this body?

1. Is the convention an official body elected under set rules and procedure specified by the Government?

2. Is the convention merely a party affair and only official within the party?

3. Are conventions provided for in the Constitution of the United States?

Thanking you in anticipation of your services in informing us on this matter. J. BENNETT.

1. No. 2. Yes. 3. No.

Aloysius Is Graduated

By Dean Collins.

Aloysius had done his High School course;
Commencement day approached, when he was slated
To stand among his fellows and receive
The sheepskin, showing he had graduated;
And one bright eve, Aloysius said to me:
"I shall read my oration unto thee."
"What is its theme," I asked, with patient grace.
Quoth he: "It is 'The Saving of the Race.'"

Filled with the knowledge of the things he knew,
Aloysius read on; told in detail,
Wherein the universe had run away,
And where the ship of state had ripped a sail.
Much marvelled I that one so young as he
Could dope things out, as he doped out to me
The situation, and I said: "Forsooth,
Our high schools are a great thing for our youth."

Having portrayed, in gloomy hues and tints,
A picture of the times, all out of joint,
And having harrowed up my deepest soul,
Aloysius came right down to the point,
And deftly showed how he would go about
The lightsome task of straightening things out;
Then showed a vision of the race and nation
'Neath the bright sun of full regeneration.

"Gadzooks!" I cried, amazed, and likewise, "Zounds!
Aloysius, those are hefty words you write.
Ne'er did I dream a high school course could turn
Out such a seer. I almost feel I might
Wisely myself, take their tuition now,
Seeking if, in their course, I might learn how,
Mayhap a man might figure out a way
Of cinching for himself three meals a day.

"Aloysius, thou hast doped some weighty dope
About the fixing of the Nation's ills,
O'er which our wild convention riots rise,
And the staid Senate passeth acts and bills.
Go then, Aloysius, to Chicago, note
How statesmen puzzle o'er convention vote;
Read thine oration then, 'tis not surprising
If even thou might do some slight revising."

—Dean Collins, Portland, June 19.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of June 20, 1862.

We conversed yesterday with a couple of gentlemen just returned from Salmon River, who stated that they left New York City on March 1 last, came by way of San Francisco, went up to Florence City, took each a claim and commenced work in eight feet of snow; washed out the principal portion of their claims, selling out the remainder, and are now thus far on their way back home, apparently satisfied with their trip.

The Indian appropriation bill passed by the Senate appropriates $75,000 to pay the cost of removing the Indians of California to two reservations. On motion of Mr. Nesmith an appropriation of $50,000 was passed for the negotiation of a treaty with the Nez Perces Indians of Oregon and Washington Territory for the relinquishment of a portion or all of their present reservation or its exchange for other lands. Mr. Nesmith stated that there were at least 10,000 gold hunters now on this reservation.

The Rev. F. Starr King has announced his intention to visit Portland and other places of importance on this upper coast on a lecturing tour.

Mr. H. Bennett has been confirmed United States Marshal for Oregon by the United States Senate.

It is with unfeigned pleasure that we announce the welcome fact that the river is falling, the waters having receded three inches since day before yesterday at noon.

Mr. C. C. Perry, proprietor and delineator of "Gropins' Mammoth Panorama of the Tour of Europe," informs us that he intends exhibiting this magnificent work of art to the citizens of Portland for a few evenings.

Indian troubles in Humboldt—On the 7th inst. a party of 75 Indians attacked Daby's at the crossing of Mad River, near Arcata. The inmates, seven in number, were at supper. They rushed for the river and crossed amid a shower of bullets and were obliged to separate in the woods. Mr. Daby reached Arcata and returned with assistance. They found Mrs. Daby badly wounded in one arm, her child in the other. The Indians took her finger and ear-rings and demanded money. One man was killed and Mr. Daby and two soldiers wounded. Two houses were burned and a packtrain robbed.

GAS VICTIM HAD WEAK HEART

Doctor Says Modern Methods Were Applied in Newberg Case.

NEWBERG, Or., June 17.—(To the Editor.)—Concerning the case of F. C. Randall, who was asphyxiated in a well near Newberg last Tuesday, permit me to make the following statement:

I was summoned to the scene of accident (10 miles northwest of Newberg) over a phone two miles distance from the place of accident. Hence, I reached the man about one hour after the accident occurred, having given instructions over phone for artificial respiration, hot packs, fresh air, etc. Upon my arrival I found that all first aids had been carried out by friends of the unfortunate man, who, however, had had a weak rheumatic heart for two years past.

I wish here to state, in regard to modern methods being applied, that in spite of the rarity of available oxygen in rural districts, a 10-gallon pure oxygen tank was at hand and used, together with artificial respiration, saline infusions, various heart and respiratory stimulants, but all methods failed after six hours' continuous restorative efforts had been spent.

Death was due to gas degeneration of the blood and paralysis of a weak heart. Considerable poisoned water was drawn into the lungs from lying face downward for 20 minutes in water at the bottom of the well.

I feel that this explanation should be made, in view of speculation as to whether modern methods were applied to resuscitate Mr. Randall.

L. E. DOOLITTLE, M. D.

The Cooling of Young Love.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Darling, do you really love me?" breathed the lover.

"I do—have I not sworn it many a time?" sighed the loveress.

"You have—but do you?"

"Why do you ask? What have I done to make you doubt it?"

"Ha, girl! I saw you—I caught you——"

"What did you see, love? Speak!"

"When I came in, I saw you setting the clock an hour forward!"

She could not deny it. Her affection was not boreproof. This was the beginning of the end.