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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1912.

THE CASE OF WASHINGTON.

Colonel Roosevelt repeats in the current number of the Outlook the unqualified charge that "President Taft's nomination was stolen for him from the American people." He means, of course, to say that both the National Republican committee and the National Republican Convention were parties to the fraud, and it is to be assumed also that every citizen who votes for Mr. Taft, either deliberately or ignorantly, countenances and indorses the great conspiracy against pure politics and good government. The Colonel demonstrates that, if what he calls the "four confessedly indefensible cases of California, Arizona, Washington and Texas" had been decided his way, he would easily have controlled the convention and got the nomination. Undoubtedly he would have. But he did not get the nomination. He was steam rollered out of it. It was a demonstration of the power and efficiency of practical political management paralleled only by the equally successful manipulation in 1908 when under the able direction of Colonel Roosevelt, all the contests brought by the allies were thrown out, and the Taft delegates were in almost every instance seated, insuring complete control of the convention and the nomination of the Colonel's hand-picked candidate.

Colonel Roosevelt makes it clear again that he purposes to press his own candidacy principally on the entirely new and more or less relevant issue of the integrity of Mr. Taft's nomination. He has said repeatedly, and he will say a thousand times again, that the nomination was stolen, and that the men who stole it were thieves. He made the same charges at Chicago and they were made for him again and again by Governor Johnson, Bill Flinn, Francis Heney and other men equally immoderate in language and equally solicitous of moderation in others.

Yet it is doubtful if the men who "stole" the nomination for Mr. Taft will agree with Colonel Roosevelt's surprising declaration that the deciding states of California, Arizona, Washington and Texas presented "four confessedly indefensible cases." The side of the Taft delegates in each of these states was taken by a large majority of the National committee, and they vigorously defended their action and presented it to the convention with able and detailed arguments as to its merits. It would appear that the sweeping assertion of Colonel Roosevelt that the committee and the convention perpetrated a grave crime by unblushingly deciding for Mr. Taft "confessedly indefensible" cases is a Roosevelt euphemism, and must be accredited to romantic fancy.

Let us take the case of the Washington delegation and review it briefly to see if there may not be a plausible and even a reasonable argument for the Taft cause there, and if the merits of the two contesting claims may not be more or less evenly distributed. The Oregonian will say at the outset that it has not the slightest doubt that Mr. Roosevelt would have carried Washington by a large vote in a state-wide primary. But it is not a question of what Mr. Roosevelt might have done. The controversy has arisen solely over what was done and how and why it was done.

Washington has no Presidential preference primary law. But under the law the counties through their respective political committees are empowered to hold primaries to name delegates to a state convention, or, in the absence of primary or convention, themselves to select the delegates. Delegates so selected are, of course, "hand picked," but it is a process that in the early stages of the contest both sides vigorously pursued. The demand for county primaries was made by the Roosevelt faction, and in a number of cases they were held, with victory for the most part on the Roosevelt side. But in King County (Seattle) there was a bitter controversy over control of the committee between the two factions, and it terminated in a triumph for the Roosevelt side, through diligent and merciless use of the steam roller by an energetic political boss, Mr. Murphine. The committe, under the accomplished direction of Mr. Murphine, called a primary to elect delegates to the state (Aberdeen) convention over the protest of the Taft forces, and it was held. The Taft leaders called upon their followers to remain out of the primary, and they did. The total number of votes cast was about 6500 out of a registration of 73,000, and the result was seven to one for Roosevelt. The Taft members of the committee then selected other delegates and gave them their credentials.

When the Aberdeen convention met a condition almost exactly identical with the pre-convention situation later developed at Chicago was presented. These were two factions very nearly equally divided. The Taft men controlled the state committee, which made up the temporary roll of the convention; but the Roosevelt men, under the indefatigable inspiration of Mr. Murphine, had instituted a large number of contests, so that very nearly one-half the delegates found their seats contested. If the remaining 50 per cent alone had been permitted, in accordance with the contention of the Roosevelt management, to determine the credentials of the contested 50 per cent, it would have been perfectly clear sailing for Mr. Roosevelt's ship. But the contests were in some instances, probably a majority, either spurious or with very little merit, and the demands of the Roosevelt forces as to the manner of settlement of the contests were strongly resisted. The committee at its meeting seated the large Roosevelt delegations from Pierce County and Clallam County, but gave the credentials to the machine-made Taft delegation from King. This action seemed to assure control of the convention by the Taft men and the Roosevelt delegates went off and held their own convention, leaving the Taft delegates in undisturbed possession of the convention hall and the party machinery.

It appears to be clear that the Taft element in Washington was in most instances, though not all, averse to any primary and that it relied upon old methods and established party practices to furnish a Taft delegation at Chicago. It appears also to be clear that the Roosevelt forces were under the direction of men well versed in practical politics, and that they hand-picked the delegates in counties where primaries were not held, precisely as the Taft bosses did. It appears, too, that negotiations for a compromise at Aberdeen failed, partly through misunderstanding and partly through design of men who wanted no amicable adjustment. It appears further that under the usual plan of district representation no solid Roosevelt delegation could have been sent to Chicago, even with Roosevelt men dominating at Aberdeen. It appears, finally, that the whole campaign prior to the convention was carried forward by leaders on both sides who used what means were at their command to win and who displayed exactly the same disregard for the rights or desires of the opposite side when they had a chance to win.

The Taft steam roller at Aberdeen disabled and wrecked the Roosevelt steam roller. That the Roosevelt steam roller was propelled largely by popular impulse, guided by men who knew their business, did not save it in a collision with a steam roller engineered by old-line politicians who also knew their business. The soapbox primary and the hand-picked delegate figured on the one side against the local machine and the hand-picked delegate on the other. It is difficult for the candid mind to determine all the real merits of the controversy. How can Colonel Roosevelt say that all the men on one side are thieves and all the men on the other side angels?

OREGON AND THE PINCHOT VIEW.

The Democratic press of Oregon has broken out in frothy paeans for the Democratic platform. "It promises to reduce the high cost of living," says one. "It will bring immediate revision downward of extortionate tariff rates, and the criminal trusts will be prosecuted" is further glowing testimony. Not a flaw is to be found in the perfect document produced by the pure patriots at Baltimore; not a word or syllable too much or a phrase or sentence too little.

But somehow the eulogistic Democratic papers overlook that blunt and telling conservation plank. It happens that conservation is a subject in which Oregon is deeply interested. It happens also that Oregon has been a heavy sufferer from the paralysis of a mistaken system of conservation otherwise known as Pinchotism. It happens also that these same Democratic newspapers, which one and all approve the Democratic platform, have been the noisiest advocates of the Pinchot policy. It is plain that the conservation resolution in the Democratic platform is a straightforward indictment of the present Federal policies of conservation as administered by zealous disciples of Pinchot.

The Democratic platform finely and forcefully voices the Oregon view of conservation as opposed to the Pinchot view. But we shall never learn it from the Democratic papers which have favored the Pinchot view as opposed to the Oregon view and the real interests of Oregon.

"THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH."

If the Elks go away from Portland feeling half as friendly toward our people and our city as we feel toward them, then indeed they have a very high regard for us. It is hardly possible that a better looking or better behaved lot of people ever before went upon a visit for business or pleasure than the thousands who dwelt with us this week. It gives every Portlander, every Oregonian among the visitors, the greatest of pleasure to say this, for it is no greater praise than our guests deserve.

We can say to our visitors that we have tried to do our duties as hosts to the best of our abilities. Almost literally we turned our city over to them, and they did not abuse the confidence we bestowed upon them. In effect we told them at the beginning of the arrivals to "go as far as they liked," and they did it only in good cheer, good fellowship, joy, jollity and mirth.

It is a duty of great pleasure to set down these facts, and our sole regret is that we could not have done more, that we could not have done better what we have done. In very truth we believe our visitors to be "the best people on earth," and if we have so conducted ourselves as hosts as to win even a half of the regard from them that we feel for them, then indeed will they depart for their homes singing the highest praise our city has ever received.

Goodbye, Bill; goodbye, Mrs. Bill; goodbye, Miss Bill, Sister Bill, Sweetheart Bill and all the other Bills, goodbye. May you receive in your yearly visits hereafter to other fortunate cities the treatment you deserve, the treatment you have a right to expect. We shall never forget you; shall ever sing your praises; we hope your memories and songs will ever include Portland and her people.

Goodbye and may peace go with you.

A USELESS QUARREL.

By its persistence in adhering to the fetish of special favors as a means of reviving the American merchant marine, Congress has involved us in a serious diplomatic controversy with the British government and has exposed us to at least a good prima facie charge of treaty-breaking. The Democratic party, which professes to be the special foe of special privilege, has joined the Republican party in an attempt to discriminate in the levying of tolls on the Panama Canal.

As regards American coastwise shipping, it is difficult to conceive how Great Britain can maintain her protest against the bill now before Congress. As our laws already exclude foreign ships from our coastwise trade, there can be no discrimination in the exemption from tolls of our vessels engaged in that trade between United States ports exclusively. Were we to attempt to extend this discrimination to our vessels which call at foreign ports in their coastwise voyages—for example, vessels which call at Mexican, Central American and Canadian ports—a good case of violation of the treaty might be made.

If the provision excluding from the canal railroad-owned ships trading between ports of the two Americas, whether of the United States or of other nations, is to be applied to ships of other countries as well as of our own, it is clearly a discrimination between two classes of ships of foreign countries and therefore is a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. If the provision has this broad application, the purpose was doubtless to block Canadian and Mexican steamship lines owned by railroads of those countries in any plan to poach on American commerce, as outlined in a recent article in the Vancouver Province. But, laudable as the purpose may have been, we have no right to distinguish between two classes of British and Mexican ships, for the treaty binds us not to discriminate between citizens of various nations.

The controversy with Great Britain only serves to convince us of the folly of attempting to build up a merchant marine by means of discriminatory laws. The extent of the proposed discrimination is admittedly inadequate, absurdly so, to offset the advantage enjoyed by foreign ship-owners. It cannot effect our purpose, but it has already caused us to be accused of a breach of international good faith. Were the proposed discrimination adequate to gain our end and were no other means available, it might be worth while to put the British charge of treaty-breaking to the test by arbitration at The Hague. But it is not adequate, and other means, abundantly adequate, are available.

Allow Americans to buy foreign ships, admit them to American register and we shall quickly revive our merchant marine. Then we can cheerfully engage in competition with the whole world, confident that we can hold our own without asking or granting favors for our own ships.

THE ORANGE FOR 1913.

The Oregonian is unfailingly glad to receive its copy of "The Orange," the annual issued by the Corvallis students. This year it comes with President Kerr's compliments and it is encouraging to see what a big book it makes. The annual keeps pace with the college. The striking feature seems to be the long series of portraits which it contains. The faculty, the senior students, the various committees and so on are all depicted for the benefit of the public. President Kerr appears at the head of the faculty in three different aspects, taken, no doubt, to correspond with the varying points of view of the student. At the top of the page he is clean shaven and terrible. In the middle he wears his habitual "knightly growth," with a mild and gentle smile. At the bottom he is scared. Perhaps the prospect of seeing the forthcoming annual frightened him.

The book opens with a dedication to President Kerr which strikes us as rather pretty. It speaks of him as "the energetic, conscientious executive who weighs all things in an even balance; the indefatigable worker whose tireless efforts to advance and dignify the industries have found hearty support and co-operation from every thinking citizen of Oregon; the true friend and fatherly adviser of every student of whatever grade or station." Dr. Kerr has earned such praise as this and we are glad the students realize it.

The Orange exhibits some variety this year in the way of free speech which is appropriate and pleasing, though we differ from its point of view. One of the students has expressed his ideas on the subject of military drills in vigorous terms. He does not like them. Later in life he may alter his opinion a little. There is nothing better for the moral stamina and physical development of a boy than the drill of a soldier when it can be separated from the vain glorification of war. There is nothing insidious and jesuitical about the exercises at the Agricultural College. The Government requires them as part of the National defense and as long as war is a possibility there is nothing reasonable to be said against them.

THE MERRY ELKS.

The Elks never have been ambitious to earn a reputation for puritanical solemnity. We do not imagine, therefore, that the resolution passed by the grand lodge forbidding "horse play" is intended to extinguish seasonable mirth. There is a time to laugh and we dare say the Elks are as keen for it as anybody else, but there is also a time "to keep silence and to build up." In almost every lodge members are found who want little else but hilarity. The more important affairs of the order concern them very slightly. If they can tumble about, play rough jokes upon one another and especially bedevil new initiates, they are so well satisfied that they forget the higher purpose of the order. The distinction between kindly merriment and "horse play" is plain enough. The grand lodge has not forbidden members to smile when anything amusing occurs. It has put no ban on wit and humor. Its purpose, one may reasonably suppose, is to banish from the gatherings of the Elks a tendency to hoodlumism which arises from the high spirits of the younger members. The Oddfellows have had to deal with the same problem and even the Masons, staid as they are, have been worried by it more or less. It is said that even to this day rough practices prevail in the French lodges which would not be tolerated in the United States.

It is to the credit of the Elks that they have taken a decided stand against the irrational gloom of puritanism. We need real gaiety in this country more than almost anything else. How sadly we lack it anyone can see for himself who takes the trouble to watch the pathetically futile efforts of people on our holidays to do something amusing. It was remarked long ago that men of our race "take their pleasure sadly." The undeniable truth is that they are prone to take it brutally. As a Nation we do not yet know how to be merry without being swinish or lumpish. The best effort some of our boys and young men can make toward mirthfulness is to toot on a tin horn or drag a bunch of cowbells along the pavement. Aimless yells express the desire of the soul to be glad, but they express it primitively. It can be done much better. No doubt the time will come when we shall see gay dances on the streets and hear lovely folk songs instead of wild shrieks, but it has not come yet. The Elks are helping effectually to bring it nearer. On Wednesday night in the soft glow of the electric lights on Sixth street one could see what looked like the beginnings of genuine popular mirth without hoodlumism. As one of the jolly bands of music passed by boys followed it dancin and pretty girls singing songs. The songs were not a hundredth part as pretty as the girls, but they will improve with time. Folk music takes centuries to reach its perfect development. Perhaps we might never have had any at all in this country if the Elks had not helped us break the detestable chains of puritanical taciturnity.

But fraternal societies like the Elks do not exist wholly for the sake of a "good time." The lodges have a serious purpose with which untimely hilarity would interfere. Benevolence forms an important part of their work and in order to do good wisely it is necessary to provide for grave debate and careful deliberation. The young members may not see the full necessity for this now, but they will when the responsibility for the good of the order rests on their own shoulders. It is particularly injurious to an organization to permit horse play to intrude into the initiation ceremonies. Of course when it is known to everybody that an order exists only for sport candidates have fair warning and they cannot complain if they are roughly handled, but that is not the case with the Elks. Merry as the members often are the lodge has a high and commendably serious purpose to fulfill. The initiation ceremonies of nearly every order depend upon the dramatic instinct for their attraction. Some select a story from the Bible for this use. Others make a different choice, but in almost every case there is a stirring appeal to our deep-seated love of the dramatic. A lodge whose initiation ceremonies constitute a good play is sure to attract and hold a desirable membership if it is worthy in other ways.

Rough jokes detract from the natural charm of a good initiation ritual. They mar the dramatic effect which is so fundamentally important, while at the same time they wholly pervert those moral lessons which every worthy society takes pains to emphasize. One could readily name half a dozen fraternal orders whose principles, if they were dutifully practiced, would make a man's conduct perfect and the Elks would stand near the head of the list. But at the same time each order has its individual claim to some peculiar merit. The mission chosen by the Elks, apart from their exemplary benevolence, seems to be to dispel the gloom of puritanism from our National life. In doing this most commendable work some excesses naturally occur. There are many young men in the order and youth will have its fling, now and then too much of a fling, but time will chasten this excess of animal spirits. The only fear we have about the future of the Elks is that, like the rest of us, they may by and by yield to the hereditary solemnity of our breed and degenerate into staid and mirthless images of propriety. No greater misfortune could befall the country.

So long as Spain remains a monorchy, its territory will be used as a base of operations for filibustering operations against the Portuguese Republic. The very existence of a republic on its borders is an offense to a monarchy, being a standing invitation to its subjects to go and do likewise. The weakness of Portugal inspires Spain with confidence in immunity from retaliation, but Portugal can retaliate secretly by affording shelter to conspiring Spanish republicans. Were Spain not full of revolutionary sentiment, her government might attempt to remove the peril by forcible annexation of Portugal, but the Spanish rulers know that a large part of their army would be reluctant to fight in a war to extinguish a republic and that any such movement would be the signal for revolt in Barcelona and other centers of republicanism. In short, a war against Portugal would probably develop into civil war in both Portugal and Spain, and the Spanish throne is not so secure that the government dare take the risk.

Both a delight to the lover of nature's grandeur and a service to the City of Portland and the whole Columbia River country is "The Guardians of the Columbia," by John H. Williams, author of "The Mountain that was God." It is elaborately and copiously illustrated with half-tone engravings, which are a triumph of the engravers' art. The literary work is of as high order as the illustrations and shows not only thorough study of the geology, mythology, flora and fauna of the Columbia River region, but an enthusiastic love of the subject which has found expression in descriptive writing that forbids the reader to lay down th book. The subject presents unexampled opportunities, and Mr. Williams has availed himself of them to the full.

Of all men now living in the Northwest, Ezra Meeker deserves well to be commemorated by a memorial tablet. He was a pioneer not only in crossing the plains, but in developing the hop industry, and to his efforts will be due the marking of the Oregon trail as an everlasting memorial to those who made Oregon American territory by the toilsome journey which ended in American settlement. The best thing that can be said of Meeker is that he has done well for his country.

The little country bank in Oregon is a prosperous institution. Collectively it has increased its deposits more than six millions in the past fiscal year. The National bank in city or town acquires the business of the large concerns, but the state bank is close to the hearts and purses of the common people.

Lorimer, in his desperation, replies to the charge of bribery by saying to the Chicago newspapers: "You're tax-dodgers." Even if he speak truth, he is not cleared of the bribery charge by speaking it, for two blacks never did and never can make a white.

One by one the havens of refuge for American defaulters are being closed by treaty, Honduras being the last. Coffee and banana plantations will cease to attract that class of investors.

Cissy Loftus is put to a great deal of trouble by her inability to discover whether she loves a man until after she has married him.

Several carloads of Nebraska hogs got into the Portland yards yesterday. The corn-fed product will be a change from alfalfa pork.

The warm spell is coming and the Oregon delegation to Chicago may just as well put its troubles on ice.

The case of La Follette vs. Roosevelt is assuming distressing proportions to the progressives.

A shower or two on going-home day will wash away the regrets.

Au revoir, Bill!

EXPRESS AND PARCELS POST.

Acquisition of Company Property Advocated by Postal Progress Officer.

PACIFIC GROVE, Cal., July 9.—(To the Editor.)—I have recently received, through the courtesy of Congressman Needham, a copy of report 597 of the House of Representatives, entitled "Postal Express."

It is a favorable report from the committee on interstate and foreign commerce on the bill (HR. 23,713) to provide for the acquisition of the express companies' property so far as engaged in the express or parcel-post business, and the utilization thereof by the Postal Department. "It was on April 25th committed to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Union," with a recommendation that it pass.

After reciting the failure of the express companies' method properly to render a service, (a) sufficiently extensive, (b) sufficiently economical, (c) sufficiently efficient, (d) failing to reach the farm and move "vital necessaries" at first cost from producer to consumer, the bill recommends the condemnation, after proper appraisement, of the equipment and express railway contracts of all express companies, and provides ways and means for the annexing of the business to the Postoffice Department. It also dilates on the "powers of Congress," the "necessities for action," "prohibitive express rates," "paucity of traffic," "reduction of rates," "cost of acquisition," "advantages of express," "railroad contracts," "purchasing the express companies," "the parcels-post regulation," and "rate-making," winding up with these "conclusions":

(1) The express companies constitute, in fact, the "parcel post" of the United States, but—

(2) Because of their prohibitive rates and non-extension to rural points their service is inadequate.

(3) The service is a natural part of the postal function and should be merged in the postal organization.

(4) The contracts and equipment of such companies are essential to an economical and efficient service by the postal department.

(5) That the extension of such service to the country will operate to reduce substantially the prevailing high prices of the vital necessaries.

(6) The rates should be administratively, not legislatively, made in order to move the potential traffic and protect the Treasury.

(7) This measure offers a full solution of the small shipment problem and allays, in place of exciting, the apprehensions of the retail merchants of the country.

As Congress is yet in session a very forcible expression of public opinion may yet cause that ponderous body to "get a move on" and pass the bill before adjournment. The new platforms of both parties profess to regard parcel-post with favor. Deeds speak louder than words! Let action be taken now.

EDWARD BERNICK,
President Postal Progress Leagues of California.

Women Not Decadent.

PORTLAND, July 12.—(To the Editor.)—It is regrettable that women allow themselves to run into print with arguments that prove their incompetency to make calm, quiet estimates of serious conditions. Perhaps Mrs. E. R. Spicer, who was responsible for the contribution in The Oregonian on "Effect of Ballot on Woman," would have strengthened her own stand had she omitted that unkind and absolutely unjust paragraph on the women who were on board the Titanic. She was too many thousand miles away to have known that neither the men nor the women were allowed a choice in the matter; that the men who went back to wait for a later boat had no more idea that they were going to their death than had the women from whom they were separated by force.

If Mrs. Spicer believes that the women of today are decadent why does she not study the history of the 17th and 18th centuries of every country and if she knows the real women of today she will realize what splendid, interesting specimens they really are.

If people must generalize, why always draw conclusions from the few unfortunate which may be regarded as the exceptions which go to prove the rule? EMILIE FRANCES BAUER.

Graft Charge Not Intended.

PORTLAND, July 12.—(To the Editor.)—In the article written by us and printed in The Oregonian, July 6, commenting on the useless and unwarranted expenditure of public money for excavations, fills, concrete walls, etc., on the new Failing School building, there was no intention on our part of charging the School Directors with graft, and we wish to correct such an erroneous impression. We do not wish to have any member of the board feel that we have been a party to electing members of the School Board who would grossly betray their trust, as such a charge would imply. They have our confidence and we now take this means of removing any injustice that may have been done to any member of the School Board.

C. F. HAYWARD,
S. PLYMALE,
E. CASHEN,
F. J. POLIVKA,
N. H. BIRD,
WM. B. JOLLY,
J. K. STANTON,
DANIEL FREY,
JOHN COBB.

The Mystic Hour.

GRESHAM, Or., July 11. — (To the Editor.)—Will you please tell me why the clock in the Elks' convention pictures always point to 11?

CHARLES ST. CLAIR.

Eleven is the "mystic hour" of Elkdom, and has an impressive part in the lodge work. Its principal significance is that at that hour Elks toast their absent brothers.

Yes, If a Citizen.

KAMIHCKE, Wash., July 10.—(To the Editor.) — Can a United States soldier vote for President in Oregon—that is an enlisted soldier?

CHARLES WILKES.

THE POLEETIKAL KRISES.

BY JO. HARTMAN.

I ain't a votin' fer Teddy,
An' I ain't a votin' fer Taft—
Some naughty reporter's suggisted
La Follette might be a bit daft.
William J. B. ain't a dead one,
But I do suspect he's too late,
An' Wilson don't strike me as havin'
Nuff ballast fer our Ship o' State;
Debs'll be clean out the runnin'
With the field chuck-a-block of Big Bill.
Oh, this here President's office
Is both'rin me head, it shure is!
We might relieve the oppression
In this wise, if youins agree,
An' start the campaign a hummin'
With a Suffragette nominee.
A woman as handsome as Helen—
Helen that caused such a fight—
As brave as Joan of Arc was,
A woman thet's allays dead right,
One who takes no man's erpinions
An' who won't consider the House,
An' little things like the Sinate,
Not a bit mor'an she would a mouse.
We could keep reckonin' fer ever
An' couldn't count up half the good,
This here female of the species
Must have stored up under her hood.
We'll jist send out a most cordial
Invite to the Nation at large,
To locate a she standard bearer
Who can float a poleetikal barge
On calm seas, or storm seas, or maybe
Upon the grim rocks of distress!
Let's hear from the Wimmins' Rights Workers
An' be plannin' the Prisident's dress.

FREE DELIVERY AND HIGH PRICES

Why Do Not Farmers Get Goods Cheaper? Asks Country Woman.

NEWBERG, Or., July 11.—(To the Editor.)—I saw an article written for The Oregonian, by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, about the causes of high cost of living and it seems she thinks we Americans are all lazy. Well, if some people think we are lazy they are very badly mistaken, for I think there are just as many saving and industrious housewives in America as in any of the foreign countries.

Now we country people, I will admit, do not have a chance to be idle like the city women. On the farm there is always work and I know I have not one single lazy neighbor.

Now what I want to know is this: When we country people go into town to do our shopping we pay just the same price as the people that have their parcels delivered, but we always carry our own load. Now why do not we get our things cheaper, as the stores have no expense delivering our goods? I am sure people should not be ashamed to carry their parcels. They should thank God they have money to buy the necessaries of life.

MRS. NETTIE YOUNG.

MOST HUMAN OF ALL BIRDS.

Not Only in Talking, but Eating, Does the Chattering Parrot Imitate Man.

Harper's Weekly.

It is not only in imitating human speech that the parrot excels most of the birds. The parrot is alone among birds in taking food in its claws. With these two characteristics it makes more or less use of that which distinguishes humanity from the rest of the animal kingdom—the hand and the larynx.

The monkey uses its hands and the elephant its trunk in feeding. Various animals have a habit of pawing their food. Rodents have serviceable toes. Still, the parrot is pre-eminent among birds in this regard. The secretary bird is said to attack reptiles with his claws, and some observers have said that owls make partial use of their remarkably flexible perching toe somewhat more than does a hen in scratching for food. However, there is no other bird which, when given a piece of food, will accept it in its claws.

Parrots, of course, do not talk, as we use the word, in their wild state and are not known to be imitative of neighboring sounds nor to possess the repertory of the mocking-bird. It is, therefore, a question whether or not their use of the claws is largely imitative also. The shape of the parrot's beak would indicate that some assistance in eating has always been a part of the bird's characteristics.

Like man, the parrot makes its appearance in the world naked and helpless.

GREAT SCIENTISTS' FUN AT PLAY

Darwin, Huxley and Others Enjoyed Politics, Scandal and Excursions.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

"It is a great mistake for adults, and especially those who work with their brains much, to give up sports and games," said Herbert Spencer. "The maxim upon which I have acted is, to be a boy as long as you can."

The Scientific American gives some illustrations to show that really great scientists are not dry-as-dust old fogies, but are full of fun and often of frivolity. It cites the famous X Club, of which such men as Darwin, Tyndall, Hirst, Spottiswoode, Huxley, Hooker, Busk, Avebury, Spencer and Frankland were members. It has no rules, but such minutes were kept as:

"Talked politics, scandal and the three classes of witnesses: Liars—liars and experts."

The members used to have excursions to which they took their wives, as recorded by the algebraic notations, "X's plus Y'vs."

Common Law Marriages.

PORTLAND, July 12.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly inform me whether in case a man introduces a woman as his wife in the State of New York it is a legal marriage? The case is this:

A young lawyer and a young girl were engaged to be married. The man persuaded the young girl to live with him as his wife, telling her that her doing so and his acknowledging her as his wife cover all that was required by the laws of the State of New York to constitute a legal marriage. He took her to his home and told his sisters that she was his wife. She lived with him 14 weeks. At the end of that time one of his sisters told her that she was not the legal wife of the man she was living with, although he had said she was his wife. She refused to live with him any longer until another marriage ceremony should be performed.

The man in the case had not finished his professional course. They agreed to wait until he had done so before they would be remarried. In the meantime the man was called to a distant part of the country on business, their plan being that upon his return they would be married at once. But this man met with an accident which resulted in his death before his friends could reach him.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN.

Non-ceremonial marriages were recognized as valid in New York until 1901. In that year a law was passed requiring that parties to such marriages must enter into a written agreement in the presence of two witnesses, the agreement to be acknowledged in the same manner as conveyances of real estate.

The Vote in 1908.

AUMSVILLE, Or., July 10.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please give the popular vote for both Republican and Democratic candidates for President in Oregon four years ago?

A READER.

Republican, 62,530; Democratic, 38,049.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of July 14, 1862.

In the list of post routes established by the present Congress we find the following for the mining region of Washington Territory: From Walla Walla to Pierce City and Oro Fino via Lewiston; from Seattle to Snohomish; from Walla Walla via Lewiston and Pierce City to Elk City; from Walla Walla via Antoine Plantes and the Coeur d'Alene Mission to Hell Gate; from Lewiston to Florence City.

Washington, July 1.—Advices from McClellan to 2 P. M. Saturday say up to that time he had successfully carried out his plan to swing the right wing towards the rear, which included all forces north of and half way between Bottom's Bridge and New Bridge, and at the same time advanced his left towards James River, opening communication with the gunboats. The enemy's attack last Thursday in great force necessitated a strategic movement and in falling back, of course to White House landing, he abandoned the sick and wounded. McClellan's army, though greatly exhausted from lack of food and rest, were still in excellent spirits. On Monday night the army began entrenching. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded yesterday is said to be not less than 8000.

Washington, July 3.—Dispatches announce the arrival of some of Farragut's vessels above Vicksburg. They passed at 5 on the morning of June 28 through a severe fire from 64 guns.

The County Commissioners' Court for Multnomah County granted a ferry license to W. H. Frush to run a ferry across the Willamette River, opposite the city, for the term of three years. The places of landing are at the foot of Stark street on the city side and at the bank directly opposite on the east side.

The fine steamer Wilson G. Hunt has been put in complete repairs and is now ready to commence regular trips between this city and the Cascades, carrying freight, passengers, etc., in connection with the Oregon Steam Navigation Company's steamers. She leaves this morning on her first trip.

MANILA AND FIELD MUSEUM

Exhibit Shipment of Forest Productions of Philippine Islands.

Manila-American Cable News.

A representative collection of the principal timbers and minor forest products of the Philippine Islands is being made by the Bureau of Forestry for shipment to the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago. Such an exhibit was requested by the Field Museum some months ago, to be placed in the great new building erected in Jackson Park, Chicago, where similar valuable collections of natural history specimens will be exhibited from all countries of the world. Other products of the archipelago are already shown in the museum, but a comprehensive collection of the hard woods of the Philippines is desired for the enlarged forestry division of the museum.

Dr. Millspaugh, the curator of the department of botany in the Field Museum, recently visited Manila on a trip around the world which he is making for the purpose of gathering authentic exhibits. One of the results of his visit to the islands was the request of the director of forestry for the collection of timbers and forest products.

Samples of almaciga and various other resins, ratans, and barks will be included in the shipment. This material will undoubtedly be a permanent advertisement of the commercial forest products of the Philippines, and in the Field Museum it will be brought to the attention of substantial business men from all over the United States who are annually brought to Chicago to attend the large business expositions and conventions held in that city.

Cause of Discontent.

PORTLAND, July 10.—(To the Editor.)—If editorials of the type of yours to which Mr. Uthoff objected and such as the one of the 9th, replying to him, had been numerous enough to enlighten the public some years ago, there would be no reason for discontent, and I most likely would be no Socialist now. If the people had been educated by such editorials, our legislators would doubtless have been compelled to enact laws at least as much for the interest of humanity as for Mr. H. C. Uthoff's sacred rights of property. Special privileges for big interests, over-capitalization of corporations and trusts, and the presumption and tyranny of our courts to thwart the will of the people would not have been allowed. It is not such editorials as complained of that breed discontent. It is bad laws that bring forth ungodly, voluptuous waste on the one side and unbearable suffering on the other that produce discontent and revolution. J. N. HAUER.

Life of Birds, Animals and Trees.

Chicago Tribune.

It has just been computed that the day fly lives 24 hours, the May fly six weeks, the butterfly two months, as, alas! also does the flea; the fly three to four months; the ant, the cricket, and the bee one year each; the hare, sheep, six to 10 years each; the nightingale, 12 years; the wolf, 12 to 15 years; the canary bird, 15 to 20 years; the dog, 15 to 25 years; cattle, 25 years; the horse, 25 to 30 years; the eagle, 30 years; the stag, 35 to 40 years; heron, lion, and bear, 50 years each; the raven, 80 years; elephant, turtle, parrot, pike and carp, 100 years each. The ivy outlives 200 years; the elm, 300 to 350 years; the linden, 500 to 1000 years; the locust tree and the oak, 400 years; the fir, 700 to 1200 years, and palm trees, 3000 to 5000 years.

Waning of the Honeymoon.

Denver Times.

Mrs. Newedd—I think I'll make some biscuits for lunch today.

Newedd—Don't bother. Let's have something light.

SUNDAY FEATURES

Pictures of the Herd—Six whole pages of live photos that tell of the greatest of grand lodge conventions in Portland during the past week. This is a feature you should get, whether you are an Elk or not. Your Eastern friends, too, would appreciate a copy.

Apron-String Secrets of Edward VII—In the biography of the late King, just issued, it is revealed that he was the victim of a "sheltered life." A page of wide interest; illustrated.

Weeding Our Real Estate Crooks—An account of the most noteworthy crusade ever undertaken by the United States Government.

Woman's Tribute to Brave Men—A great memorial arch is being prepared by the women of the country to the brave men of the Titanic. The story of the movement is told in a striking, illustrated article by W. A. Du Puy.

J. Rufus Wallingford Outdone—Swindler of high connections reduces exploits of famous crooks of fiction to mere child's play.

Is Hydrophobia a Myth?—This much-discussed question is taken up by a trained investigator and sifted to the bottom.

Social Leaders Go to Work—An account of the activity among England's elect who would escape ennui.

The Top Price in Baseball—Another article by an expert. Marty O'Toole gives the inside story of a $22,000 deal.

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The Jump-Ups visit Newport. **Sambo** goes to a powder factory and all the color comic people put on new acts.

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