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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 1912.

WILSON'S POLICY TOWARD TRUSTS.

The people look to the incoming administration to dispose of two main issues of the late campaign—the tariff and the trusts. Wilson has already announced his purpose to ask Congress to take up the tariff at an extra session next Spring and there is some talk of legislation on the trusts also at that session. The tariff, however, is likely to be the subject of prolonged controversy, notwithstanding the sanguine hope of the New York Times that it will occupy only three months. There are so many angles to the trust question and it is likely to provoke such prolonged debate that we can scarcely hope for action upon it at the session devoted to the tariff. Trusts should rather be the principal subject of legislation at another session.

The best we can reasonably expect, then, is that anti-trust legislation will be passed at the regular session beginning in December, 1913. By that time the courts may have disposed finally of some of the suits now pending and their decisions will throw such light on the scope and limitations of the existing law as to prove a valuable guide to Congress in shaping supplementary legislation.

The policy outlined by President-elect Wilson is so closely in line with that pursued by President Taft that it would be consistent for him to prosecute to a conclusion the suits now pending. Although he has said that the Sherman law roared like any sucking dove, he may be expected to endeavor to add leonine tones to that roar without awaiting further legislation. His criticism ignores the facts that Taft is the first President who really attempted to enforce the Sherman law against all offenders alike, that Taft is the first to obtain prison sentences under it and that he has proved that law so efficacious that since the oil and tobacco decisions no trusts have been organized.

Aside from approving such tariff revision as will deprive trusts of special favors, Wilson may be expected to demand of the courts decrees which will more completely dismember the trusts than did the oil and tobacco decrees, which the Democratic platform unjustly condemns as compromises. He is pledged by his platform, his speech of acceptance and his campaign speeches to supplement civil with criminal suits against trust officers. We are at last to see a systematic effort to put the trust magnates in jail. We shall learn whether juries, knowing that conviction means a prison sentence, will convict, whether juries will recognize an unwritten law as condoning the crimes of high finance. If so, much credit must be given Wilson's last two predecessors for educating public opinion up to this point.

Wilson's anti-trust policy differs from Taft's mainly in his condemnation of the Sherman law as ineffectual, while Taft maintains that the oil and tobacco decisions have proved it to be effective and to need only supplementary laws describing and denouncing forbidden methods. Taft has brought criminal prosecutions and has expressed confidence that, as the offense becomes better understood, juries will convict. Wilson is of one mind with Taft in holding that monopoly is repugnant to our institutions and is abnormal, and that competition can and must be restored without destroying those large corporations which are the normal result of normal competitive conditions. Both men aim to destroy the abnormal outgrowths of special privilege and of official supineness. Herein they differ sharply from Roosevelt, who confounds the normal with the abnormal and would take all alike under the wing of the Government, prosecuting only those trusts which do not conform to his standard of goodness.

COWARDICE OF CRIMINALS.

Conviction of the four murderers of Rosenthal and of the man who hired them to commit the crime shows how invincible is the law when administered by honest, capable officials. Before the assaults of District Attorney Whitman, the whole structure of terrorism built up by the criminals in collusion with the police fell to pieces. The terrified guilty ones turned on each other, and some became cringing servants, instead of defiant violators of the law. The actual murderers, when brought to trial, told a story, in the effort to exculpate themselves, which the merciless logic of Judge Goff proved absurd.

In twenty minutes the jury adjudged them guilty.

A public official, if he be capable and faithful, can strike terror into criminals and can break up the most formidable conspiracy, unless he is a coward. The lawless trade on the venality, incapacity and cowardice of the law's servants. If they cannot buy or frighten, they trust to the blundering of an official; if he be upright and capable, they seek to terrorize. If he be upright, capable and courageous, all good citizens rally to his support, and the bullying criminal shows himself a craven at heart, and each races with his confederates to secure immunity by turning informer.

The same skill, integrity and courage which Whitman has shown in bringing the murderers of Rosenthal within the shadow of the electric chair can break up the whole criminal organization which for years has ruled New York City under the name of Tammany. Such a man instills courage and determination in all those who instinctively desire to see the law upheld, but have despaired because none made the first move. All good citizens promptly rally around such a man. Let them only stand by him to the finish, and he can recapture the government of New York City from the corrupt gang which breeds Beckers and Rosenthals, and can restore it to the people.

A WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENT.

The project of complimenting some woman with the electoral votes which would have gone to the late Mr. Sherman has its merits. There is no weighty reason why a woman should not be Vice-President of the United States, or even President. But the present proposal is merely to cast for some woman a number of votes which cannot possibly elect her. Surely, there is no danger in doing so, and it may make some person happy for the rest of her life. Even if a woman were to receive votes enough to elect her, we should not worry over it.

It must be admitted that the President of the United States has more actual power, while it lasts, than most modern monarchs, but he has not more than monarchs used to have in the days of Queen Elizabeth of England and Catherine of Russia. Historians do not question that those women made extremely capable monarchs. Elizabeth guided England safely through the most serious crisis of its career, while no Russian Czar ever served his country more ably than Catherine.

There is something almost grotesque about the way many Americans shy at the thought of entrusting political power to women. According to some observers, this is one among numerous traits in which we resemble the Orientals. Women have always been despised in Eastern lands, but Europeans have not hesitated to make them queens and governors when the opportunity occurred. France is almost the only other Christian nation which excludes women from the highest political honors. Scotland, Scandinavia, Austria, all have had queens who reigned with glory. Our unfounded prejudice against women's political capacity is pretty certain to wear away as the suffrage is gradually extended, and they have a chance to demonstrate their ability.

The only danger in the premises is that they will not demonstrate their ability. Women are naturally so imitative of men that they may slip without protest into the old bad ways in politics and fail to achieve the great things their friends expect of them. In co-educational colleges the women are far more likely to encourage bad traditions than good ones. Will it be the same in politics?

STATISTICS ON DEATH PENALTY.

Comparative statistics on homicides are not as a rule conclusive as to the deterrent effect of capital punishment. The proportion of murders to the total population is so small that one insane man or one degenerate by a triple or quadruple murder may so increase the percentage in one community as to place it, temporarily, in an unfavorable light. Moreover, there is a difference between states in the mental and moral character of the people. One may be largely a rural community and another with which it may be compared may have numerous large centers of population where crime is prevalent. Elements aside from mere figures must be given consideration in comparing the homicide statistics of a state which has abolished capital punishment with those of another state which has not.

For these reasons, Colonel C. E. S. Wood's comparisons in his communication today would need further backing were they even correct. But as they are given, it must be that he has relied on information which The Oregonian does not possess and which is not supported by the last census reports. Colonel Wood asserts that Maine, where the death penalty is not imposed, has fewer homicides than New Hampshire, Connecticut or Massachusetts. The last census figures, as published in an Eastern exchange, give the number of homicides per 1,000,000 of population in Maine at more than double the number in Connecticut and nearly double that in Massachusetts. Rhode Island, another state where murderers are not hanged, shows a greater proportion of homicides than Maine. After comparing Maine and Massachusetts in the matter of population centers, one would naturally expect to find the lesser number of murders in Maine, even if both imposed the same form of murder penalty. Yet Maine has twenty-three homicides per 1,000,000 population to Massachusetts' thirteen.

It may be admitted that the insane and those who murder in passion are not deterred, as Colonel Wood avers, by knowledge that penalty for murder is death. Nor is the forger deterred by capital punishment. It is not imposed on him. Neither is the death penalty inflicted on the insane murderer or on him who kills in the heat of passion and without premeditation. Advocates of the death penalty do not assert that it is a deterrent to second degree murder or manslaughter or affects the insane criminal. At least we have never heard of any supporters of the present law who do.

The strongest point we can discover in Colonel Wood's letter is in the argument that capital punishment prevents convictions, because it gives abnormal weight to the "reasonable doubt" or the "alibi" in the mind of the juror reluctant to assume an indirect responsibility for another's death. Yet this objection is applicable only in certain states, of which Oregon is one. It is remedied by giving judge or jury discretion as to whether life imprisonment or death be imposed. That when such discretion is given it may be used even to prevent instead of encourage appeals, rehearings and final failure of justice was illustrated in the McNamara case. Fear of the death penalty brought confessions that would never have been given in its absence.

We are not advocating the alternative death penalty as a basis for compromise. Yet, as such, in rare instances, it seems a wise purpose by relieving a widespread bias of mind that would be altered by no form of positive or conclusive evidence. In the McNamara case it destroyed in the beginning a conviction that a capitalistic conspiracy existed to murder leaders in the labor movement. It cleared a foul atmosphere and secured the ends of justice in a way that would have been impossible by any other court process. At that, certain ends of justice and full protection of society were still endangered, for one McNamara, instead of profiting by "reformatory punishment" in "detention and under observation," has lived to plot more murders from his cell in San Quentin, though unsuccessfully.

Oregon's law may well be amended so that death for certain murders may be discretionary with court or jury. Retention of only the principle of capital punishment was involved in the recent election. On that the voters spoke after sober and thoughtful consideration, with no very recent gory deeds to inflame their minds and with an impersonal and casual knowledge of its immediate effect on men now under conviction. The result disclosed no spirit of vengeance but a calm determination to protect society.

PHONETIC SPELLING.

The process of reducing the English language to a system of phonetic spelling proceeds apace, though not without vigorous protest from many sources. The purpose of the scholarly innovators is not to "simplify" or "reform" the popular spellings of words. What they wish to do is to adopt a phonetic representation which will correspond for scientific purposes to the accepted pronunciation.

This would be a comparatively easy feat if there were any accepted pronunciation of English, but as investigation proceeds it becomes increasingly plain that there is nothing of the sort. Even in the United States where Webster's Dictionary has ruled spoken English for these many years pronunciation is by no means uniform. A Westerner can scarcely understand his mother tongue as it is spoken in Baltimore. The natives of Maryland have softened their speech in imitation of the negroes until it sounds like a foreign language to a man from Wisconsin. They say "bahn" for barn, "poke" for pork and "bone" for born, with hundreds of similar perversions.

Every considerable city in the country has built up a pronunciation of its own which tends to become increasingly different from the usage of other places. The natives take obstinate pride in their singularities and boldly proclaim that everybody else is wrong. New England has a dialect. Iowa has another. Georgia has a third and so it goes all over the land. In the face of facts like these who shall say authoritatively what pronunciation is correct? Uniformity is out of the question. Such a factor as climate sensibly affects the vocal organs and helps vary the utterance of human beings. Food also has its influence and habits of life are important.

It seems therefore as if it might be difficult to adopt a system of phonetic spelling which will serve as a universal standard even for scientific purposes. Many scholars hope, however, that it can be done, and if it ever is then no doubt the uniform spelling will tend to produce a uniform utterance, since we all unconsciously strive to pronounce words as they are spelled if we happen to remember the way.

EDITIONS DE LUXE.

The arrest of James J. Farmer in New York for defrauding "lady bibliophiles" will awaken painful associations in a number of females' bosoms out here on the Coast. His operations are said to have extended all over the country. How many lovers of the old and dirty in books he has swindled will never be known probably, but his victims must have been innumerable, since he has been carrying on his performances for years, and has dealt in editions de luxe as well as in "rarities." The people who patronize him are those who buy books to look at and talk about, but who never by any chance open a volume to read, unless it happens to be the latest by Marie Corelli or The Duchess. These people buy sets of Dickens at $30,000 each, or supposedly artistic editions of Voltaire and Balzac at prices ranging according to the victim's gullibility from $50,000 up to $100,000. The particular operation for which Farmer has gotten himself into durance vile was the sale of a de luxe edition to a Mrs. Bird for $47,650, which honest experts say could be bought in the open market for $3500. We are astonished to find it was worth so much. Usually these swindlers palm off a mess of old rags and ink on their opulent gulls, which are worth nothing except their price at the paper mills.

The person who buys books to read is comparatively safe from this species of swindle. He cares nothing for rare books, and detests old ones. What he wants is the printed page in the most legible and convenient form. For tooled leather covers, sumptuous margins, famous misprints and the dirt which to many persons symbolizes age and value he has no craving. To the real lover of literature the newest book is, as a rule, the best one, since it is apt to be more legible and cheapest. Shakespeare in an edition printed yesterday is worth a hundred times as much as the original folio for practical purposes. The Greek texts which come from the press currently are far preferable to all the Elzevirs and Aldines in the world, not only because they are better gotten up, but also because they are more correct, both in text and annotation. As far as we are concerned, age has no charms for us, unless it brings some improvement in its train. The antiquity which means merely rottenness and decay is not to our liking. We prefer the wholesome product of this morning. Certainly, old friends are better than new ones, but that is because they have been tried and found true. Old wine is the best to drink because the years have ripened its perfume and perfected its taste. And old books are the best to read, some of them, at any rate, but not in old editions. Deliver us from the grimy page, the flimsy paper, the misleading text of old editions. Not many years ago there was a rage among some of our less discerning citizens to buy "limited editions," as they were humorously called. The wily book agent represented his firm as being engaged in publishing a singularly correct and luxurious edition of some established author, Dickens, say, or Thackeray. There were to be only so many sets printed, five hundred perhaps, and each was to be signed by a distinguished editor and numbered so that its value was sure to increase rapidly with the years.

The dupe was lead by the agent's eloquence to regard his purchase as an investment. Like buying diamonds, the acquisition of these rare and precious sets would make an assured inheritance for his children and forever insure his widow against want. Life insurance on the deferred dividend plan was nothing to the purchase of these limited editions as a rapid and safe road to wealth. When the mine had been worked out, those who had allowed themselves to be persuaded and had lined their shelves with the limited editions of all sorts of classics suddenly found the same books for sale in the cheap stores at big discounts. That was the kind of an investment they had secured. Swindlers like Farmer have operated with brilliant success among the opulent lovers of that particular kind of art in Portland. There are tales of women who have paid $30,000 or $40,000 for sets of some novelist which turned out to be worth nothing at all when they came under the eyes of persons who really knew what was what. The expense is heaped upon these seductive rarities by many an ingenious device. Of course, the book covers are something marvelous to behold, with their imitation designs and false ornamentation. The paper is said to have been manufactured by some secret process, which never could be used in books for the reading of the vulgar herd. Between the leaves pictures of the most select character have been stitched. They are always printed from plates which no other firm could possibly procure, and signed by artists so famous that Tintoretto would blush for modesty to be compared with them.

Thus the gull is snared and the swindler rakes in the shekels, which would probably be spent in some sillier way if he did not get them; so that, upon the whole, no harm seems to be done. Whether a woman empties her pocket for a $10,000 dog or a faked edition de luxe does not make a great deal of difference to the world. As long as we have people among us who are wealthy and ignorant, while at the same time they aspire to pose as lovers of art, the swindler will reap his golden harvests easily and regularly. The law may interfere with his business now and then, but not seriously enough to harm him much. The fool and his money are bound to part. If the separation is not effected by one species of humbug, it will be by another. Warnings are of value only to the intelligent, and there seems to be something about the possession of large sums of inherited money which fearfully impairs the mental alertness of its owners. The $47,650 which poor Mrs. Bird paid for a bundle of rags and ink would have founded half a dozen scholarships in some technical school, which by and by might begin to produce real artists.

Roosevelt may induce Progressive legislators not to fuse with the old parties, but when either of those old parties passes laws which satisfy the demands of the Progressive platform, he cannot prevent the Progressive voters from fusing by means of a simple return to their old party. All the measures of any merit which the Progressives advocate are supported by one or both of the old parties and when they are brought up for action the Progressive legislators must either vote for them or be false to their principles. Every Progressive vote cast for such measures originating with either of the old parties will be a confession that there is no excuse for a third party. The candidacy of Roosevelt is in fact the only excuse for such a party.

Colonel Hofer's monthly magazine, the Oregon Manufacturer, has appeared and shows the result of work typical of its editor. One cannot appreciate the industrial programme of the state until he reads the first number. The general contents are short, sharp and incisive, everything epitomized and boiled down to facts and figures. Colonel Hofer and his sons have opened a lead in journalism in Oregon that will be of great benefit, for every issue will be an immigration number, to appeal to capital seeking investment and labor looking for a well-paid field.

The franking system under which Congressmen and Senators enjoy free mailing privileges costs the taxpayers $22,000,000 a year, and is one of the great obstacles to the extension of the parcels post. How much good does it do the people? Now and then one gets a parcel of seeds which will not grow. Occasionally comes a grandiloquent speech which is not read, and ought not to be. If members of Congress were held to strict account for their franks, the abuse might be cut down to reasonable figures.

Even women living in suffrage states still suffer certain disabilities of a political nature. Suppose an Oregon man moves to New York with his family. His wife, though enfranchised here, cannot vote in that benighted state. Each state makes its own election laws, subject to a few constitutional restrictions, which have not been worth much in practice. What state will be the last to enfranchise women? Is there any more alluring question to bet upon?

Make the law what it was intended to be, a means of securing swift and sure justice at reasonable cost, and the legal profession will cease to be the butt of jokes, such as Judge-elect Davis mentioned in his speech to the Oregon Bar Association. Exclusion from practice of the shyster and the ignoramus by some such means as Judge Davis suggested would be a means to this end.

Observers lament that there is no European statesman of towering genius to take a hand in the settlement of the Balkan troubles. At the head of each Cabinet there is a decent mediocrity, but no Bismarck; not even a Disraeli. Perhaps it is just as well. The absence of a compelling genius may give the Balkan peoples a chance to settle their troubles for themselves, which is often the best way.

The Oregon manufacturer, big or little, with payroll large or small, is entitled to consideration today and all days, for the money gets into a revolving fund from which many benefit.

Dr. Steiner has reduced the per capita cost at the asylum down to $13.71, which is doing very well in these days. Not many who are sane and at large fare so well.

A Boston youth has wedded an Austrian countess in London. Trust she will not pan out like most Austrian counts that invade the American matrimonial market.

Paul Clagstone aspires to succeed the late Senator Heyburn, and he deserves honors from Idaho Republicans.

Beauty is a drawback to an actress, according to Maxine Elliott. Still the pretty ones manage to struggle along.

A New York man committed suicide after attending the theater. We've all known that impulse.

No, Spring Rice isn't a market quotation; merely the new British Ambassador.

Nothing but a recount of California can settle the bets.

At least it's time to begin your Christmas saving.

Did you eat home-made mush this morning?

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

Edward C. Bowes, of Tacoma, the present husband of Margaret Illington, is going into the producing end of the theatrical business. He has taken over Thompson Buchanan's new play, "A Man's Way," which is to be produced in December. Ann Murdock, who was here in "Excuse Me," is to have the leading role.

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Aileen May, sister to Edna, has arrived in San Francisco from New York. Next Monday she joins the melodramatic stock at the New National Theater—a company backed by Jack C. Wilson, a Pacific Coast capitalist.

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Willard, the man who grows, and who grew for a week at the Empress last Summer, opens at the Hippodrome in London on December 2, preparatory to a tour of forty weeks in England. Willard has never appeared east of Chicago.

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Portland looms frequently as a supply station for vaudeville acts, and this week records another instance where an impresario has found talent in this city. The case in point is that of Ethel Lester, who made her debut at the Orpheum yesterday afternoon as a member of Marion Littlefield's Florentine Singers. Miss Lester was born in Sydney, Australia, and has been a resident of Portland for a year. Miss Littlefield declares her recruit to be a dramatic soprano of great promise. Miss Lester rehearsed for a part in "Traumerei" yesterday morning, and joined the grand opera singers with the confidence of an old hand before a large matinee throng just a few hours later. The addition of Miss Lester to Miss Littlefield's coterie of singers makes the vaudeville organization more cosmopolitan than ever. Miss Littlefield is a Boston girl, born and bred. Her leading soprano is Scotch, the contralto is French, the baritone a Hungarian, the second tenor from Killarney, and now Miss Lester, of Portland, joins as a representative of the Antipodes. Miss Littlefield, owner of the act, appeared in Portland two years ago with the Neapolitan Opera Company. She is a cousin of Paymaster Charles A. Littlefield, U. S. N., retired, and a second cousin of De Wolf Hopper. Until three years ago Miss Littlefield always had the distinction of having two relatives in Congress. They were Charles E. Littlefield and Seth Milliken, both representatives to Congress from Maine. The vaudeville songstress has been besieged with relatives all along the Orpheum circuit. In Spokane she was visited by nine and in Seattle last week 14 relatives, all members of the same family, called on her and occupied seats at the Orpheum performance last Saturday night to hear their cousin sing. She has cousins in Portland, too, but as yet has been unable to locate them, the current directory not containing their names, due to their recent arrival here from the East.

* * *

Because "Seven Sisters" is the present week offering at the Baker, this little story seems apropos:

While touring the states in "The Seven Sisters" last season, Charles Cherry had rather an amusing experience in San Francisco.

"I had to secure a little girl—the last step in the ladder of 'The Seven Sisters,'" Mr. Cherry relates, "and one had been engaged for me there. I never saw her till the night of the performance. As I went to my dressing-room I saw the dearest little girl, about 7, I should say, with golden hair and such pretty bows of ribbon in it. She was dressed with exceeding daintiness and I thought what a picture she would make.

"The business of the part required me to take the little girl and swing her to my shoulders and make my entrance that way. When I tried to lift her I found she was much heavier than I supposed, so I exerted myself somewhat more and perched her on my shoulders. This brought her legs within close range of my vision, and they looked auspiciously mature, so I looked up at the child and said: 'How old are you, little girl?' 'Twenty-eight,' was her answer. 'Then get right down,' I said, and, suiting the action to the word, put her back on the stage."

* * *

Minnette Barrett, one of the Portland girls who has made good before the calcium, has an important role in "The Mere Man." Augustus Thomas wrote the play, a satire on the suffragette question. Crystal Herne, an older sister of Julie Herne, who had the leading role in "Bought and Paid For," is of the company also.

* * *

Catherine Countiss is drawing to a close her special engagement in stock at the Colonial Theater in Salt Lake. In turn Miss Countiss has presented "The Gamblers," "Tira," "The Thief" and "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Wilfred Rodgers is her leading man; our old friend, J. Frank Burke, is playing character roles; Ronald Bradbury, Ruth Lechler and her husband, Earl Dwire, now stage manager for Miss Countiss; Richard Vivian and his talented wife, Fanchon Everhart, who plays character roles—every one of the above a former Baker player—are in Miss Countiss' support. Rosa Roma, who comes occasionally on the Orpheum circuit in her violin specialty, is ingenue with the company. In private life Miss Roma is Mrs. Chester N. Sutton. Mr. Sutton was a one-time manager of the Portland Orpheum circuit and is now house manager of the Colonial stock. Miss Countiss returns to New York on the first of next month, where she will begin rehearsals for a metropolitan production that offers promise for a big success for Miss Countiss.

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In the waltz operetta, "The Rose of Panama," which comes to the Heilig on December 1, 2, 3 and 4, is Fay Bainter, one of the daintiest ingenues that ever created for herself a Portland reign. She was with the Baker stock a year ago.

* * *

William "Billy" Dills has been engaged as stage director for the Lyceum stock, one of Oliver Morosco's holdings in Los Angeles. Herschel Mayall and Maude Leone will play the leads.

* * *

Valeska Suratt is headed Portlandward via San Francisco in "The Kin Waltz."

Snorers in Church.

Stray Stories.

Doctor—Do you talk in your sleep?
Patient—No, I talk in other people's. I'm a clergyman.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OPPOSED

System Fails Even as Deterrent, Says Colonel Wood.

PORTLAND, Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—As it is an important study in sociology perhaps you will bear with me if I notice the article in favor of capital punishment reprinted in The Oregonian from the California Christian Advocate. It must not be assumed that it is Christian advocacy because found in a Christian Advocate. The most savage plea for capital punishment I have yet seen was by the reverend editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, or some such title, the organ of the Methodist Church in the South, and when Kansas had accumulated four murderers under sentence of death—just as we have accumulated seven—it remained for a minister of the gospel and preacher of Christ crucified to use his pulpit as the forum from which to call on the Governor for a wholesale execution.

It cannot be forgotten how many fine clergymen are intelligently pleading for the abolition of capital punishment. The acts of those who seek to preserve this "last remaining feudal ferocity as useless as it is degrading," as it is called by the foremost European authority, cannot therefore be given any authority beyond their personal intelligence, knowledge and strength of argument. The church has always had a very considerable band which has championed every stupid wrong in history. The high priest crucified Christ, the bishops preached and wrote in defense of Charles the First. The Lord's annointed, the Archbishop of Paris, proclaimed the divine right of Kings for Louis Fourteenth, the pulpits of the South proved by the Bible that slavery was ordained of God and they called the hanging of John Brown a righteous act. In fact, we might as we read history say the church, like every other institution in effect founded on property and the existing order of things, is always wrong—but progress owes no greater debt than to the brave men in the church who have led it upward and generally been denounced as heretics or persecuted for their courage.

Now this Christian Advocate article, to my mind, is words, words, words—pure balderdash written by a man ignorant of every fact in the history of capital punishment. The writer says "capital punishment is not punishment in the sense of vengeance." In fact it is precisely vengeance. Reformatory punishment is best obtained by holding men in detention and under observation. The very fact that produced the conviction of Becker and the gunmen was the aroused feeling for vengeance. The very fact which thoughtful men feared might let loose cold-blooded murder conspirators was that the jury might hate to electrocute. Were the crime less appalling, the desire for vengeance less aroused, they probably would not have convicted, because the individual man more and more dislikes to be the personal instrument who sends a fellow man to the gallows. That is really one of the great arguments against capital punishment—it prevents convictions. It promotes long delays and appeals—and turns criminals loose without any restraint who ought to be shut up, perhaps for life. In short, it is inefficient. There are several books in the library which will prove this to anyone, "The History of Capital Punishment," "Crime and Criminals," and many others.

Everything this writer says he might have said in the same glittering generalities and it was far better said by Lord Eldon when England proposed to abolish hanging as the punishment for larceny and burglary and highway robbery. The profession I have the honor to serve—the bench—the pulpit, all united at that period in the cry that society would be at the mercy of the criminal if the deterrent fear of capital punishment was removed. It was removed and England was the better for it. It was removed in Maine and Maine is the better for it. Maine has fewer homicides than New Hampshire, Connecticut or Massachusetts. It was abolished in Rhode Island and Rhode Island is the better for it. Wisconsin never had an execution and has fewer homicides than its neighbors. These facts speak louder than all the words of our Christian Advocate. Experience is stronger than any theory. Let him study the subject in Europe. It is abolished in nearly all the countries. It exists in Russia only for political and military offenses. A man was lured from France, where there was no capital punishment, into Belgium where capital punishment then was in force, and was killed there because the circumstances suited the plot better. If our Christian friend will study the subject he will find the insane and those in passion are not deterred. They act on an overpowering impulse. The cold-blooded murderer is not deterred. He lays his plans to escape or, as in the Becker case, expects protection.

The execution only prevents certainty of punishment, for it gives abnormal weight with the jury, to the "reasonable doubt," the "alibi," etc. In short juries will not hang men if they are not aroused for the moment by indignant vengeance. Most murderers escape.

Lastly, it certainly brutalizes society, with the exception perhaps of some preachers who cannot be brutalized. If it brutalizes society, and yet does no good, it should be abolished. Let the Christian Advocate turn its attention to what produces human degeneracy and crime—the flooding tide of enforced poverty. Let it seek the reduction of those special privileges which create monopoly on the one hand, poverty on the other.

C. E. S. WOOD.

SEWER EXTENSION IS OPPOSED

Montavilla Man Charges That Resolutions Are Not Representative.

PORTLAND, Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian November 16 under the heading, "Sewer System Indorsed," an item appeared which I desire to correct. Here are the facts: At a meeting of the Montavilla Board of Trade held at Harris' hall on November 14, to which the public was invited to discuss the East Stark-street sewer system, a resolution was proposed favoring the extension of said sewer to city limits. Seeing that the audience was almost unanimous in opposition to such a resolution, the chairman refused to allow any but paid-up members to vote. Counting noses, there were, all told, just six men who were accorded the privilege of voting on the resolution. Consequently the most of the people arose and left the hall, only a very few remaining with the six members. The resolution was then put and carried, four voting in the affirmative, one negative and one not voting. The resolution embodied instructions to be filed in the office of the City Auditor.

It is a well-known fact that nine-tenths of the property owners of Montavilla are opposed to any extension of the sewer system at this time and are determined to resist to the utmost such extension, the fiat of four men to the contrary notwithstanding. Cut-and-dried resolutions passed by a few men do not represent the views of the people in any community, and in fact can be had for the asking or any subject calling for money in large amounts when the people, no matter how poor, are compelled to foot the bill. To this pernicious practice of a few men getting together and passing resolutions in favor of spending large amounts of other people's money may be traced many of the evils we complain of in our city government. The scheme is hoary with age and is often used as an excuse for legalized public robbery by promoters and boosters who thrive in every city. FRANK HUGHES,
Member of Montavilla Board of Trade.

Where Dreams Come True

By Dean Collins.

At midnight in his shrouded room,
The while outside the moon was beaming,
An Easterner employed the hour
In riot of fantastic dreaming.

And when the glorious morning's beam
Set little birdie's wings a-flutter,
He told his wife his wondrous dream,
While spreading waffles hot, with butter.

"Methought I saw a wondrous place
Where cabbages gigantic burgeon,
Where 'taters grow to beat the band,
And salmon fill the streams, and sturgeon.

"Where grain stalks like a forest grow,
And hogs like mastodons are spotted;
And pumpkins ramble o'er the wold
Dragging their pots (if they are potted).

"Where apples swell like great balloons,
So brightly in the sunlight glinting,
Luscious as melons to the taste
And like the rainbow, bright in tinting.

"Where people borrow ax and saw,
Forced to adopt such drastic measures
To break the mammoth squashes' rind
And scoop into its golden treasures.

"All these I saw within my dream;
And since I woke I have been thinking,
My dear, if you will bring the pledge,
I'll sign and discontinue drinking."

She smiled, superior, at him;
"Your reasoning is hardly right there!
It is a vision you have seen,
And not a brandy-tinted nightmare.

"Get thee a ticket; board the train;
And to the far Pacific strand go;
The substance of your dream comes true
This week in Portland at the Land Show."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of Nov. 21, 1862.

Report of ways and means committee to the City Council: Warrants drawn from July 1 to September 30, 1862, $5842.74; estimates from October 1, 1862, to July 1, 1863—improvement and repair of streets, one-half of which is to be paid out of the City Treasury, $53,500; six policemen and captain for seven months, $3640; Fire Department, $11,315; gas light, $1800; rent of Council Chamber, $200; Marshal's, Clerk's and attorney's salaries and other expenses, $5000; last year's debt brought forward, $2646; total, $82,943.74.

Auburn, Nov. 7, 1862.—One sign we saw written on a "shake," nailed to a post before a log cabin in Powder River Valley, will speak volumes for the progress of the age in this region: "Oh yes! Mince pies and potatoes, bread, cakes, butter and milk for sale here. Whisky!" The last item, which is the staff of life on the road, strychnine and all, inserted in one corner.

Another premature skedaddle took place in the City Council at its last session, leaving that body without a quorum for the perfection of certain important business.

There will be in the next Congress 88 Republicans and 82 Democrats, or six Republican majority in the House of Representatives. The political aspect of the Senate it not likely to be changed from what it is at present—Republicans 30, Democrats and Border State Unionists 18.

BAD AIR IN AMUSEMENT PLACES

All Theaters Should Have Plenty of Air, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Nov. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The moving-picture show is an institution that has assumed such prominence that society must reckon with it, with its influence, associations and "time consumption."

As to its influence it may be divided into two categories—moral, including the intellectual, and physical. Much has been done to check objectionable presentations, so much so that the moral tone is now much better than a few years ago, when gambling, embezzling and all sorts of dark ways were regularly presented as a matter, of course and deemed perfectly proper, just so the end was justified. There is yet much to be desired on this point, for the plot of the play is too often so wishy-washy as to be absolutely ludicrous. Then there is the association at the theater. For my part I can see no harm in young girls seeing a reel or two on their way from school, or any other time if they are with their friends. If the pictures are acceptable, a normal girl needs no guardian in a properly conducted theater. Now, when women have votes, ought we not to foster self-reliance in the growing youth? Nay, ought we not at all times to train the young in such a manner that they learn early in life to depend on their own judgment rather than on the commands of authority? If the home is right, I believe the youth will come through adolescence unscorched with but little chaperoning. But this is a big subject.

The second part I refer to as physical. It touches all those questions of health and disease, even life and death, fire escapes, proper light effects, proper temperature, drafts, etc. One thing remains, and in this remaining thing we sin more than in all other parts. Not a word have I seen in print about this abominable condition; not a word from teachers' meetings, mothers' clubs and many other bodies, who ought to know, but evidently do not. It is their business to know. It is well enough to strain out the gnats, but it is more important to remove the camel. I refer to foul air. In only two or three theaters in this city do we find tolerable air. I have spoken to the management of a number of amusement places and received such replies that I am convinced that not one of them understands it. They believe that stirring up the foul air will purify it. Can you purify dish water or bath water by stirring? Imagine several hundred individuals from all walks of life breathing and re-breathing each other's emanations for about four hours.

From 7 until 11 these little coops pour out their audiences every half hour and immediately refill the stifling place with a fresh lot. Not only the breath from drunkards, dyspeptics, and worse, but the perspiration passing through unclean vestments, often soaked in musk, German cologne and other nauseating scents must we breathe while enjoying "art."

ERNEST BARTON.

True Local Time for Turks.

Westminster Gazette.

Through the center of the mosque of St. Sophia runs the theoretical meridian which gave the Turks true local time—1 hour 56 minutes 52 seconds fast on Greenwich—until, two years ago, the new government fell in with the standard system of time zones, and came into the Eastern European zone, exactly two hours ahead of Greenwich time. For religious purposes, however, 12 o'clock always happened at sunset, and noon thus wanders with the seasons all around the clock.

Heeding a Timely Warning.

Washington (D. C.) Herald.

"No use locking the stable door after the horse is stolen." "I should say that was the very time to lock it. They might come back after the automobile."