

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Jan. 18, 1913.

WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

The triumphant progress of Thomas McCusker toward a fine job as Postmaster of Portland has stirred the otherwise lethargic Bull Mooseers into a more or less furious protest. They abhor McCusker. They recall that he refused to turn the other cheek to Colonel Roosevelt in his September visit to Portland, smote McCusker right heartily, but that he answered in kind, with a few adjectives to spare. They recall, too, that McCusker as a delegate to Chicago declined to join in the bold Roosevelt manœuvre of capturing contemporary assault, and that he added insult to injury by voting for R. E. Williams for National committeeman.

What McCusker did and what the ardent enemies of McCusker say he did may possibly be explained by the following brief statement: McCusker ran for delegate to the Republican National Convention as a "Roosevelt-LaFollette" candidate. He was elected, under the instruction to vote for Theodore Roosevelt at Chicago. He affiliated himself with the LaFollette forces at Chicago, but declined to vote for McCusker (a Roosevelt candidate) for temporary chairman, voting for Root, the Taft candidate. Root was elected. Later he voted for Roosevelt, in accordance with the letter of his instructions. Taft was nominated, and McCusker supported Williams, a Taft man, as National committeeman for Oregon.

The Bull Mooseers say that McCusker betrayed Roosevelt, for he failed to support the Roosevelt programme, but consorted with his opponents. McCusker's position is that he was elected as a Roosevelt-LaFollette delegate, that his first duty was to the Republican party, and not to the enemies of the party, that he was obliged to play the Roosevelt game in so far as it was reasonable and consistent and in accord with his prime duty to the convention to which he was a delegate, and that he voted for Williams because the presidential candidate was fairly entitled to have a National committee friendly to him.

Here one may see two utterly irreconcilable views, each undoubtedly tinged by partisanship and both presumably sincere. McCusker doubtless interpreted his duty along the line of their desires. But Bull Mooseers interpreted McCusker's duty along the line of their desires. The initial trouble lay in the fact that Oregon sent to Chicago a delegation not united on a single project, and certainly not as a whole partisans of Colonel Roosevelt, though instructed to vote for Roosevelt. The members of the delegation acted as individuals, and not as a delegation.

Every delegation elected from Oregon to any future convention will split on the same rock that divided the Chicago delegation of 1912, unless the narrow and mistaken provision of the present Presidential primary law, limiting each voter to a single candidate, shall be amended. Representative LaFollette has introduced at Salem a measure authorizing every elector to vote in his primary for a full delegation to a National convention. Some such law ought to pass. The people certainly desire that it should pass. Sending to a convention an avowed Taft man, or LaFollette man—and electing him because he is a Taft man or a LaFollette man—but instructing him to vote for Roosevelt is a travesty on good politics, and is unfair to Roosevelt, LaFollette and Taft.

THE FARMERS' HEENS.

When one reads the statistics as to farmers' hens he is amazed at the part they are playing in the industry of the country. Compare the egg production and value, for instance, with the wheat production of the country. Take the five years, 1908-1912, and we find the average yield of this cereal was about 67,000,000 bushels per year. It was worth on the farm about 90 cents per bushel or \$60,900,000.

Now wheat is one of our principal money-making agricultural products. This cereal is grown in commercial quantities in every section of the country; in several states it is the dominant crop. Each year the far west of the country were producing wheat of such a fabulous value, what were the farmers' hens doing?

The operations of the meek and lowly hen for the period stated above were almost beyond belief, and yet the figures are from the same source and just as reliable as the wheat statistics. During the five years 1908-1912 the fowling of the country produced 7,956,555,835 dozen eggs, which had a value, on the farm, of \$1,533,444,500.

In other words, to place the figures side by side, our wheat crop is worth about \$600,000,000 a year and our eggs were worth \$1,533,444,500 per year. A little over half as much as the wheat. But let it be remembered that hiddy was not busying herself entirely in egg production. Indeed, the egg value is only about half of her wealth production, for hiddy, if left to her own inclination, usually raises a large family.

No reliable statistics are at hand as to the value of what may be called the poultry meat production, but, as said, it is undoubtedly as great as the value of the eggs, thus bringing the poultry products up to the value of our wheat.

We mention the egg and poultry output as from the farmers' hens. That, of course, is not strictly accurate. There are a good many people who have only a city lot or two and

to what they call the unity of the empire, and allow the Lords to pass the bill after making some protests for the sake of appearances. They would hope thereby to dissolve the bond of mutual interest which unites Liberals and Nationalists and defeat Asquith on some measure of opposition to him. Such things have happened in British politics and they may happen again.

Should the Tories determine to fight home rule to the bitter end, the Union and again next session and the following session. If the Liberal coalition still held together, it could then make the bill law without the Lords' consent. But many things may happen in the next two years. The Liberals may continue to lose by-elections and the Tories may break out among the "free parties" to the coalition and cause its dissolution. The labor party may break away and leave Asquith with a majority too small for dependence.

Unless the home rule bill should become law in a few years of strenuous life, it has a few years of strenuous life ahead of it before it becomes operative.

MURFREESBOROUGH. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in its final form on January 1, 1863. The Union victory at Murfreesborough was won two days later. Many people in the North, anxiously looking for some favorable manifestation of Providence, discerned a mystical connection between the two events. Certainly no over-victory helped the Union.

Joseph Fels greatly disturbed his devoted followers, at the recent single tax conference, in Boston, when he intimated broadly that he was tired of playing the role of solitary angel for the single tax movement.

The circular proceeds to declare that in places where the single tax funds locally raised, all contributions ceased when the Fels money gallows were set up on the horizon. Hence the fear that there will be "pauperization by a rich man of the clearest, most fundamental, most democratic movement in the history of the world."

So there may be no inauguration ball. Yes, verily. This is democratic simplicity with a vengeance. We shall hear next that there is to be no inauguration ball. The President will saddle up the Bottom in his own campaign, walk to the White House with a British abashi over his shoulders and go to work as if no cataclysm had befallen the country.

Prospects of Irish Home Rule. The passage of the home rule bill through the British House of Commons closes only the first campaign in what promises to be the final war for Irish self-government. The next campaign will begin in the House of Lords and may be characterized by the same struggle between the two houses.

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WHY LIVING COST IS TOO HIGH. More Reasons Are Added to List of Explanations. PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—The numerous communications which are pouring in to the editor of the Oregonian pertaining to the high cost of living are indeed interesting. One informs us that the effort to keep up the pace set by the other persons increases the cost of living, another cautions us not to buy fancy package goods, then again we are taught that our forefathers' obligations in the form of bonds now due are contracting in the principal cause, and we are reminded of wage increases and the introduction of new machinery and many other causes.

It is quite true that there are many causes that contribute directly or indirectly to the high cost of living. I might also mention the enormous capacity of the liquor business, a business that does not add one iota of wealth to a community. Its products are worthless as far as the general public is concerned. The millions of dollars invested in the tobacco business represents capital that could be directed into useful channels. Than only a few great multitudes of persons and impairs their earning capacity. These three agencies, in my estimation, represent much waste.

Work for the interstate bridge across the Columbia moves ahead smoothly notwithstanding the opposition of a few parochially minded people whose vision is bounded by the limits of their own county. It is a scheme not to unite two cities, or even two counties, but two great states, for traffic across the bridge would come from the remotest parts of both Oregon and Washington in these days of automobiles and auto trucks. It would bind together not only Portland and Vancouver, but all Multnomah and Clark counties, but all Oregon and all Washington.

The Christian Science Monitor says that "we live in an era of clubs." One of the New York clubs which it describes justifies its remark has 31,000 members. People organize nowadays for every conceivable purpose. Many have cause to believe that no worthy purpose can be carried out without a club to back it.

JUDGE FUTURE BY THE PAST. Lesson Drawn From Tremendous Growth of Our Country. BAKER, Or., Jan. 13.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian has noticed the different opinions regarding the amount to be expended on the Oregon exhibit building in San Francisco.

Why not a tax on old maids? If Men Are Taxed Women Should Have Equal Consideration. JUNCTION CITY, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Oregon has recently granted equal suffrage to women. It is not growing, and I will relate a little incident on the subject that came under my personal observation.

Income Tax. SILVER LAKE, Wash., Jan. 14.—(To the Editor.)—Would you define income tax for me? I do not know if the income tax is simply a tax on incomes or whether it is a tax on property. It includes the tax on present income.

Property Rights. ALBANY, Or., Jan. 13.—(To the Editor.)—A man who had been paid for her services, and who was partly by her own money and partly by her husband's. (1) If there are no children, does the property go to the husband or the wife? (2) If there are no children, to whom does the property go?

Income Tax. WOODLAND, Wash., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me whether a man and his wife are both under 20 years of age, have no children, and no other income, and are both under 20 years of age. A SUBSCRIBER.

ILL-BRED FOLKS AT THEATERS. Tale of Announcements Is Poured Out by Squarer. PORTLAND, Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Did your afternoon's work ever so arrange itself that you could slip away at 2:15 and take in some vaudeville show that you had been counting on seeing ever since the notice of it had been published? If you ever did, do you recall the feeling of satisfaction that coursed through your entire system when at that late hour, you succeeded in buying a seat right in the center of row "B"? And when the orchestra finally crawled through their cubbyholes and started in on "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee," did you not throw out your chest, close your eyes for the moment and therewith prepare to give yourself up to complete sympathy and enjoyment of the bill?

Did one of the girls in front of you join in all of the songs and drown out everything excepting her own squeaky voice? And wasn't the fellow that was with the other girl continually telling the rest of the bunch that the comedian's stuff was rusty and ought to have been buried long ago, together with the comedian? Honest now, didn't it seem to you that the fellow who was next to you was doing the same thing that the fellow who was next to him was doing? It's a fierce, isn't it? L. C. McLAUGHLIN.

ARE WE AN IMPOLITE PEOPLE? Instance of Bad Breeding Quoted to Show That We Are. PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(To the Editor.)—Taking us as a people, by and large, considering all things from all angles, are we not just about the most ill-mannered nation in the world? As an illustration of unmitigated inconsideration I repeat a little piffle that fell upon my ears a few days ago.

When I look back—62 years ago—in crossing the Isthmus, I did not dream of such a stupendous undertaking as separating two hemispheres, and uniting two oceans.

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Why, then, should we hesitate in looking at the outcome, from taking such a liberal view and raising sufficient money to erect a building and a statue representing "Triumph," for instance, to stand as the peer of the exhibition, and let the world know that Oregon is the spot where industry flourishes. S. A. HEILNER.

LET CHILDREN PLANT WALNUTS. Result Will Be an Ample Supply in Course of Time. ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I read an article in the Oregonian relating to the people of McMinnville, who were considering walnut growing, and I will relate a little incident on the subject that came under my personal observation.

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Posting People. By Dean Collins. Oh, Mr. Hitchcock, I have heard you're asked to give directions, may be. To one who wishes to make use of our parcel post to ship a baby. And, apropos, I now suggest that, after proper summation, you grant him leave to do the same. And furnish proper explanation.

When first the infant parcel goes, A precedent thereby is founded, Which can be carried further yet And with great value be surrounded.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of January 18, 1863. A correspondent writes from Vera Cruz, Mexico, on November 12, as follows: "French troops are continually landing about the number, now exceeds 20,000 outside the walls of the city."

Some of the business men in Oregon City have signed an agreement to take the legal tender notes at the authorized quotations, as published in the papers of this city.

The roads from this point south are in a horrible condition, but the mail connection has been made ever since the recent break.

State Taxes. PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly state if there is a state in the Union that does not levy taxes? B asserts that the people of the State of Minnesota pay no taxes, that the revenue from the iron mines is sufficient to liquidate all indebtedness for public purposes. M. S. M'G.

Minnesota levies a state tax at the rate of \$2.67 per \$1000 of valuation, but a 37 per cent valuation is used. Delaware is the only state not levying a direct state tax, but city and other local taxes are levied.

GIBSON PICTURES. The pictures that made Charles Dana Gibson greatest of pen and ink illustrators will be presented in The Sunday Oregonian, a striking full page being devoted each week. The pictures which tell "The Story of a Widow and Her Friends" will appear this Sunday.

Under-World Revelations—In the third of his series of articles Jack Rose, late gambling partner of Lieutenant Becker, tells of how he graft and how it reaches the tremendous total of \$18,000,000 a year.

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