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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 1913.

MIRACLE OF THE BRIDGES.

Thirty years ago there was no bridge across the Willamette at Portland. Now there are half a dozen. Then the old-fashioned ferry accommodated the meager traffic; now the facilities of the great permanent trans-river structures are taxed to accommodate the moving throngs. Then the major portion of the urban population was on the West Side, and East Portland, Albina and the suburbs had only a few thousand people. A complete change in the balance of population has been wrought in a generation, for about two-thirds of Portland's people now live east of the Willamette. The marvelous transformation has been wrought largely, or wholly, by the Willamette bridges.

The sole means of communication between Oregon and Washington, across the Columbia River, for a distance of a great many miles is the antiquated ferry at Vancouver. Now it is proposed that there shall be an interstate bridge and that the enterprise shall be jointly supported by Oregon and Washington. Legislative committees from Oregon and Washington are today to meet for consideration of the project, and are to view the site.

If there is any lingering doubt in the minds of any Washington legislator, or of any other citizen of Washington, as to the benefits to accrue to his state from construction and operation of the Columbia bridge, let him study the miracle of the Portland bridges.

THE JOKER IN THE INSURANCE CODE.

The insurance code, introduced at Salem and known as Senate bill No. 28, deserves the closest scrutiny. Accusation has been made that it is full of jokers. It is charged that it has been drawn in the interests of the insurance trust. It is averred that it has been slyly and cleverly drafted with the definite object of forcing within the reach of the profit-seeking companies a certain class of self-insurance that they cannot now obtain. It is not meet that the state should engage with the insurance trust in such a conspiracy, or that it should countenance it.

Under a system known as "inter-insurance" some of the large and financially responsible mercantile establishments of the state have to a degree insured their own fire risks. The inter-insurance plan is a contract or agreement among a limited number of concerns of known financial standing and with practically the same character of risks, whereby an insurance fund is created, out of which fire or other losses to any firm in the agreement are paid. Owing to the large value in the property involved and the care ordinarily exercised by such firms to prevent fire losses, their insurance is a desirable business unobtainable by the companies that do a general insurance business for their own profit so long as inter-insurance may be conducted at a saving to the parties in agreement.

The inter-insurance plan is one in which the public welfare is not materially involved. Reasonable supervision to the end that irresponsible mutual companies may not solicit insurance generally in the guise of inter-insurance is all that is demanded from the state. Yet the proposed insurance code places these agreements or contracts on the same basis as the profit-seeking stock companies. It imposes upon them drastic supervision by a commissioner having inordinate power, and in effect permits the envious stock companies, if the commissioner acquiesces, to fix the rates of inter-insurance. Inter-insurers are to be subjected to all the requirements made of stock companies and must assume the added burdens imposed upon their own form of insurance.

It is not likely that inter-insurance would long be practicable if this bill became law. Risks now carried in such agreements would be forced to the stock companies, which would take out of the state that surplus in premium which is now returned in the form of dividends to the home subscribers to the inter-insurance agreement. Whether the bill has purposely been loaded with jokers or has been carelessly drawn may be a matter of question or dispute, but in its present form it is manifestly unfair to a large number of establishments in Oregon that are adequately protecting themselves against fire or other loss and endangering in no way the welfare of the public or of private institutions.

Before this bill or any other insurance measure is passed, it should be definitely established that the act does not discriminate between any two classes of safe and proper insurance. The state's authority over insurance is one of public policy. When its authority is exerted in behalf of one private enterprise at the expense of another, it is prostituted to base ends and dangerous practices.

GIVE RELIEF TO THE ALASKANS.

If Congress should attempt any other than tariff legislation at the extra session, it could not do better than take up bills for the development of Alaska. Two other subjects of National importance besides the tariff call for action, namely, trusts and finance, but each one of these will provoke so much discussion that it should be the chief topic of a session. There is small reason to hope that Congress would divide attention in the special session between the tariff and either one of these subjects. Some Democratic leaders are already talking of postponing currency legislation to the regular session.

Alaska legislation is not in the same class with these extremely controversial questions. There is pretty general agreement in both leading parties as to what should be done. Congress already has before it the report of the commission on railroads, and the policy of Government construction has been recommended both from the Republican side, by President Taft and Secretary Fisher, and from the Democratic side by Representative (now Governor) Sulzer. Leasing of coal and oil land is favored by leading men on both sides. There is therefore small room for disagreement except on details.

Bills such as those for Alaska could well be disposed of by each house while it is awaiting the action of the other house on one of the tariff bills. The Democrats talk of taking up the Philippine bill, but the case of Alaska is far more urgent than that of the Philippines. Thousands of American citizens have gone to that wild country prepared to develop it and are suffering loss and privation because legal obstacles stand in their way. The Filipinos can better wait another year for the decision when they are to become independent than the Alaskans can wait for permission to develop the country in which they have cast their fortunes.

PARTISANSHIP.

It is interesting to find in the Albany Democrat a fervent appeal for non-partisanship in the election of county and city officers and a general commendation of the improved spirit of comity between the parties on general issues. Yet at the same time it is noticeable that the Democrat upholds the Governor in his foolish controversy with the Legislature over his vetoes. What for? Partisanship, certainly.

The Eugene Guard is another of the thrifty political group which breathes a noble spirit of non-partisanship when the Republicans have anything to give, but stands solidly on principle when there might be a loss or surrender of any kind by the Democrats. Just now the Guard is vigorously warning the Legislature that it is a disgrace to "put the Governor in a hole" and declaring that "most of the members belong to the old stand-pat political gang." All were elected through the direct primary, and all but two or three subscribed to Statement No. 1 and obeyed its terms. We are to assume that a submissive attitude toward the West political machine and a meek deglutition of the West legislative programme is the real test of progressiveness in Oregon.

Undoubtedly the present controversy was provoked by Governor West. There are ninety members of the Legislature, representing thirty-four counties and reflecting every shade of opinion, and kind of interest, and they have been well-nigh unanimous in their resentment of the mad tactics and furious explosions of the Governor and in their determination not to be bulldozed by the veto club. It is not credible that the ninety members are wrong and the angry executive alone is right.

It is Governor West's misfortune that he persists, through a stubborn pride of opinion, in any course, however injurious and mistaken it may be, so long as he is opposed. It is the state's misfortune that it has an executive who is so little trusted as to his judgment, fairness and efficiency by so many sensible and public-spirited men.

CANTEEN VS. POST SALOON.

A retired soldier of the regular Army wrote a letter to The Oregonian the other day on the canteen. Among other things he had in his letter this impressive paragraph:

> The people who were instrumental in abolishing the canteen do not care anything for us. They never provided or even suggested a substitute for the canteen. When we go to town, the only place open to us is the saloon, and it frequently happens that our uniform bars us from public places and nobody cares for us except in case of fire, earthquake or some extreme emergency, when we are the only ones capable of handling the situation, and even our services in these respects are soon forgotten and we must put aside the uniform of which we and every good citizen should be proud, and put on plain clothes if we want to enjoy ourselves outside of a saloon.

We forget the Army until we need it, or we think of it only to regulate it, to its grave detriment. The canteen was the creaking bugaboo held before the eyes of the country for many years and we got rid of it and turned the soldiers over to the wolves and harpies who infest the post saloon. Having satisfied our sense of superior virtue by snatching the canteen from the lips of the soldier, we refused to be responsible for him further. Let him drink himself into the guardhouse if he will at the post saloon, or let him expose himself to misery, wretchedness, vice and disease, all he pleases; we have done our Christian duty, for we have prevented the Army itself from regulating the amount of beer he might have, and from surrounding its sale and consumption with decent influences and wholesome restrictions.

Why has the soldier now been neglected and forgotten?

SPIRITUALISM REVIVING.

Since the exposure in New York of Eusapia Palladino's little tricks spiritualism has been modestly sitting in the shade without trying to attract much public attention. Still, intercourse with the other world has proceeded about as before. The ghosts have delivered their more or less intelligible messages to the mediums of various sorts and the elect have profited by them according to their receptivity. To him of great faith much was given. The unbeliever did not expect a great deal and he was not disappointed.

But now this lean season seems to be passing away, and, unless the signs of the times are misleading, we shall soon reap another harvest of miracles. It appears that Eusapia Palladino was not finished by any means when that little coterie of New York highbrows and skeptics undertook to show her up as a fraud. They found that she did some of her miracles by trickery, but it is stoutly maintained by Hereward Carrington that she does a great many others by some genuine "supernatural power."

The Oregonian has always conceded that a medium might be honest part of the time and a fraud the other part. There is no reason in the world why Eusapia should not lead a double life, fooling some bands of investigators and rewarding others with unimpeachable reports from the spirit land. The French Psychological Institute agrees with Mr. Carrington that this is precisely what she does. When she is truly inspired her miracles are genuine. When the inspiration does not come at her bidding she resorts to fraud.

It was on one of the latter unhappy occasions that the New York investigating committee made its alarming discoveries of her quips and cranks and wanton wiles. Hereward Carrington writes the New York Sun that he has been investigating Eusapia Palladino for twenty years and cannot persuade himself that all of her wonders are "normal." Some of them, in his opinion, are supernatural, or "supernormal," as he prefers to say. For our part we cannot see any difference between the two terms, but we admire his pluck, and, if he is in the right, we hope he will put his foes to rout. We should like to see a genuine ghost.

COURTESY AND THE CONSTITUTION.

The people look to the progressives of all political stripes in the United States Senate to bring back that body to a proper conception of the purpose of its creation and of its duties. Senatorial courtesy, as understood by Senators, should go into the Senatorial lumber-room along with the seniority rule whenever it interferes with the performance of Senatorial duties. The Senate is no longer an exclusive club, as it was in the days when boodle, scheming with politicians and backing of the bosses and the interests were the means of securing admission. The direct primary and direct election are making the Senate over into a body representative of the individual states, created to do certain work for the people in a certain manner. We are getting back to the constitution, which, though time-worn in spots, is still pretty good ground to stand upon.

The constitution provides that certain officials shall be appointed by the President "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate"—the whole Senate—but Senatorial courtesy has decreed that the consent of the two Senators from the particular state whence the appointee hailed shall be necessary to the confirmation of an appointment. The Senators have made a bargain among themselves to follow this practice in order that no person who is personally obnoxious to them may be appointed to office in their respective states and that, when a Senator is of the same party as the President, every office in his state shall be filled by a man recommended by him.

This is a species of log-rolling in appointments as vicious as the practice of log-rolling in legislation. It organizes the Senate into a political trust, which is a conspiracy against the public interest. It makes the personal likes and dislikes of Senators, the personal political allegiance of citizens, the test of fitness for public office. The people are thus frequently deprived of the services of the men best qualified to serve them because of some petty, selfish consideration which does not concern them. The people demand that they be governed in accordance with the constitution, not in accordance with Senatorial courtesy.

It is a sad commentary on human frailty that Senatorial courtesy has been invoked by men who have been the loudest shouters for popular rule. No man need be surprised at the adherence to bad traditions of the reactionaries of both the old parties, but when such flamboyant Progressives as Bristow, Bourne and Poindexter resort to those traditions in order to exclude from office men whose qualifications they cannot deny, there is good cause to question their sincerity.

There is reason to believe that President-elect Wilson will give aid to those Senators who are leagued to break down the pernicious seniority rule. It is to be hoped that he will make war on the equally pernicious rule of courtesy, by which the Senate has in effect delegated its constitutional functions to two of its members with relation to each appointment.

THE FRENCH DRAMA.

Portland unites with all the world to do homage to Madame Sarah Bernhardt. Mistress of the tragic art as no woman ever was before her, she comes crowned with a lifetime of victories. Memory will enhance the witchery of her acting with a thousand tributes from long ago. To illumine the power and splendor of her art come throngs of compelling recollections, and the glory of the past brightens the triumphs of today. Like Queen Elizabeth, whom she portrays with a fidelity which appeals to the historic sense as much as to the love of beautiful acting, she has reigned more than a lifetime, and the heads are gray and the faces wrinkled which she saw in the theaters when she won her first laurels. But old eyes are never dim when she steps out upon the stage, and every heart is as victorious over time as she herself when that voice, with all its treasures of mystic beauty and all its tears, sounds once more through the theater. When Sarah sobs, the world sobs with her. When she smiles, all the earth is merry.

For all these years she has upheld before the most exacting audiences in the world the highest traditions of the most finished drama. There are no such lovers of the theater as in Paris, and there are none who make such stringent demands both upon the playwright and the actor. With one or two exceptions, the greatest names in the roll of modern playwrights have been French. If we forget Shakespeare, Goethe and Ibsen, there are no names to compare with Corneille, Racine and Moliere since the days of the Greeks. Indeed, the tradition of Greek art has been kept up in France as nowhere else, and Madame Sarah Bernhardt has never fallen below the fine ideals of her authors. France had a drama flourishing in perfect beauty while England was still watching the stupid mystery plays which preceded the Elizabethan era. The nineteenth century had almost dawned before the German stage began to show signs of greatness. The Augustan Age was over in Paris before Lessing wrote Minna von Barnhelm and Voltaire was dead when Goethe and Schiller began to produce their plays.

To Voltaire, who was the first great Frenchman to read and criticise Shakespeare, the plays of that master seemed barbarous because they neglected so grossly the classic rules to which the Parisian drama had always submitted. Corneille and Moliere were as much bound as Sophocles himself by the unities of time, place and action. The plot must run its course within twenty-four hours, or not much more; everything must happen at a fixed spot. If it did not, the scene must not be shifted, but the playwright must use his ingenuity to get the incident told to the spectators. The Greeks had a chorus for this purpose and Milton in his "Samson," which is Greek in everything but language, employed the same device. But the French drama, with all its fidelity to classic tradition, has not adopted the chorus. What must be told the audience is given in asides and soliloquies, or the characters reveal it in conversations among themselves. But, as every reader of Moliere knows to his delight, the scene is the same throughout the play and hardly ever is more than one day consumed by the action. Ibsen came more and more to follow these same classic rules as his art developed. He said he did it not so much because he wished to do something difficult as because he found himself compelled to classic strictness by the very soul of his work.

It is strange to remember now that Corneille, in spite of his dramatic rigor, was classed among the artistic radicals of his day. There was a terrible tumult when his "Cid" came out because it was supposed to violate some of the traditions of which French theater-goers are so fond. The opposition was not quite so lively as it was when Victor Hugo's first romantic plays appeared, but Corneille was violently criticised and the "conservatives," as the disturbers called themselves, made his life unpleasant for a time. But Corneille has had his revenge. Nowadays his "Cid" is pronounced by those who know to be the greatest modern tragedy in the classic form. The discerning reader will remember that none of Shakespeare's plays are "classic" in this sense. They violate all the rules of the Greek drama as recklessly as a bad boy breaks windows, but still they manage in some way to sway the mind and heart of the world. Corneille, Racine and Moliere are the three greatest names in French drama and Moliere is conceded by all lovers of literature to be the greatest comedian who ever lived. He saw deeper into life than any other and expressed his vision in forms which the world will always cherish. He was not a mere purveyor of amusement, which some are too willing to believe is the comedian's exclusive mission. He was a satirist, a critic of life, a poet who brings tears as often as smiles. George Meredith has told us that "comedy" in Moliere's sense is the art of portraying the seamy side of life, that aspect which makes us smile while we wonder that the justice of Providence can permit it to be as it is.

Shakespeare has taught English-speaking people to expect blank verse or prose in their plays, but the great French drama is almost always written in rhymed couplets. Voltaire, who stands just below the laureled three in fame, always wrote his plays in rhyme and Rostand does the same to this day. It is only when we come down to such men as Sardou and Scribe that we find French plays written in prose. Maeterlinck, who is a Belgian, uses prose habitually and Brieux does the same. But it is a long way from Corneille with his classic form and romantic feeling to Brieux, with his stage sermons on eugenics and social hygiene.

Says the Commercial and Financial Chronicle in commenting on Wilson's Chicago speech:

> Backed by public sentiment, Mr. Wilson was able to make short shrift of the political bosses, and now, without much further ado, he purposes to smite those who have achieved success in the business world.

He purposes no such thing. He purposes to smite only those business men who have achieved success by illegitimate means, and the whole Nation, excepting the offenders, but including thousands of honest business men, hopes he will smite hard and with good aim.

The British government has bought the National Telephone Company's system for $62,576,320, having taken control on January 1, 1912, in anticipation of the settlement of the price by arbitration. Already there are complaints of poor service, due to antiquated methods and inefficiency. That is a hint of what might follow Government ownership in this country.

Democratic Senators are not united. Eventually we may enjoy the spectacle of crafty Republicans working an ancient Democratic game on the Democratic majorities. Thus while the Democrats disagree the minority runs off with the pudding.

The Czar is kept in continual trouble by the determination of his relatives to wed plebeian beauty in preference to aristocratic homeliness. As Byron said, such matches spoil the blood, but much improve the breed.

Wellesley maids have been ordered to eschew bunny hugging at their dances. But until an order appears forbidding them to "sit out" a dance, we hardly anticipate a total end to the practice.

The Pasadena hotelkeeper who makes a specialty of Boston girls as waitresses may have found a solution for the problem what to do with the surplus women of New England.

That Eastern female interviewer who described Bernhardt as "having a bug for flowers" should receive special mention for atrocious bad taste in the use of English.

Do not marry before you are 23 is the advice of a Chicago pastor to young women. But the average miss will prefer to take no chances of being left over.

There must be no medical trust, says Wilson. But without trust, how can a doctor treat a hypochondriac with an injection of sterilized water?

The German medico who wants $1,000,000 for his tuberculosis serum will get the world's contempt along with the gold.

Hugh McLain, Oregon's electoral messenger, did not, like the historic insect, eut much ice, but "he got there all the same."

That gold discovery in San Francisco must be a cache of "high-grade" overlooked or forgotten by the robbers long ago.

Baseball is being introduced into Mexico. Farewell revolutions if that baseball fever ever gets into their veins.

Now the allies are temporizing. They are beginning to realize that they have an elephant on their hands.

Editor Joe Levinson, of the Fresno Herald, has reached the acme of fame in being sued for libel by Glavis.

In the tug of war this week the legislative lung-tester is matched with the gubernatorial bung-starter.

The historic bones of John Paul Jones have at last reached their permanent abiding place.

Every now and then some of those deadly little Moro wasps sting their benefactors.

When the suffragists start beauty contests they really interest us.

What models of propriety those Wellesley girls must be!

To Puget Sound by trolley is not an iridescent dream

THE OLD AND NEW SCHOOL DAYS

Frozen Lunches and No Social Distinctions in Pioneer Times.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—It is reported from Vancouver, Wash., that the School Board has agreed to equip a room at a school with necessary cooking utensils and dishes and that a hot dish of soup, stew or other warm, palatable viand will be served to pupils free daily to go with their lunch taken from home. What will be served the following day will be given out the day before, so that the mothers, in putting up their childrens lunches, will be better able to decide what to include.

Principal Rolf and assistant, Miss Eberlie, will teach "table etiquette, politeness, the proper method of eating and kindness toward each other and instruction in cooking."

All very good for the pupils, but a little hard on the teachers, but in keeping with the adage, "Men are only good to be worn out." We are going pretty fast and one is led to ask, how long can we keep it up?

It causes me to look back over my shoulder at the mile stones left behind. I think the later ones have the best markings. Some of us who are not yet ready to be called very old see in that backward look the "old log schoolhouse," with its chinked walls, in a pioneer country where frosted toes and ears were not uncommon.

At luncheon we did not sit down to "a hot dish of soup or other warm, palatable viands," but each brought the tight-fitting lid off his little dinner pail with a jerk often to find his lunch frozen solid. Then followed a scene which, if lacking somewhat in the more refined etiquette, was rich in kindly feeling and helpfulness of that day and conditions. In the best and happiest feeling we gathered about the huge box stove and with bits of frozen food stuck on the point of a knife or quill pen, held them over the fire till thawed out. He who was without a knife or quill was loaned one by his neighbor, and no lunch was ever more appetizing than that corn pone, sliced beef or bread and butter thawed out over the old box stove.

The teacher, too, who was always fireman, would join our company, poke up the fire and send out heat waves that would greatly widen the circle about the stove, and when the lid came of his pail and his lunch was found to be frozen a little harder than others, merriment rose to a high pitch, and, although the "etiquette" may have been short of the present-day standard, it was supremely natural. It was not a time of uniform dress, for suits were not "tailor-made." Neither were stogie boots, nor overalls too big or to small prohibited. There was the linsey-woolsey dresses and the homespun and home-made suits and boots of many patterns. There was a variety of fashion.

We had the mischievous boy who threw paper wads to the ceiling, put bent pins on his neighbor's seat, cut rings around the hickory so at the first stroke it flew into a dozen pieces, and once he let a mouse with a short string to its tail loose in the schoolhouse, which set the girls screaming and sent them scampering to a standing position on their seats with their skirts drawn close about their ankles, causing the teacher to lose his mental equilibrium until he discerned the cause of the unusual commotion.

There was no need of dress reform, for there were no social distinctions, all were poor. Neither was there a "smart set," "soft shirts" or "school fraternities," but there were "spelling matches," "lyceums" and "singing schools."

Hurrah for the olden time! Hurrah for the new! Both are links of the same chain. UNCLE DENNIS.

PURPOSE HELD BY MEN'S RESORT.

Humane Refuge Given Men Made Destitute by Drink.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Reports of the so-called raid on the Men's Resort by the police on Friday morning last, are in danger of giving a wrong impression, and I beg space to make this statement in the interest of fairness.

The Men's Resort is dealing with a serious problem which is brought about by the saloons. Men come into Portland with their earnings, and under the enticements of the ever-present saloon, are led to spend their money, their time, and their manhood, and when they are penniless, naked, sick, discouraged, starving and unfit for service, are turned out into the streets. The Men's Resort is trying in the name of humanity and Christ, to help them in their hour of distress. This work of salvage is not without gratifying results, as many men now in responsible positions can testify. We can point with pride to men on farms in the country, and men in business as well as in the ranks of labor, who were robbed of money, name, health and almost of hope by the saloon, who, because of the Men's Resort with its ministry of help and message of hope, are now making good.

The Men's Resort is not a refuge for able-bodied loafers and bums, and every possible influence is brought to bear to help them to self support and usefulness. The public, so free to condemn, should bear in mind that a large percentage of the so-called down-and-out men are unfit for physical labor and for various reasons disqualified for logging camps and railroad life. They are the manufactured article of the saloon, who, when without money or physical strength to earn more, are kicked out, homeless and unfit. During a few weeks of the worst Winter weather the Resort befreinds these men in the name of common humanity by allowing them to sit in chairs in a warm room during the night. But for this shelter they would be turned out at the closing hour of saloons and forced to seek shelter in barns and vacant buildings. The Men's Resort is under the management of a committee of business men who have carefully considered these matters, and have elected to deal humanly with these defeated men while at the same time avoiding methods likely to contribute to their further delinquency.

Anyone who seriously desires to solve the problem of destitute, penniless men, will find the solution in removing the principal cause, which is the saloon.

LEVI JOHNSON, Supt.

Light in Courthouse.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—It is generally admitted that our new Courthouse will, when completed, be a structure of the most beautiful architecture and most handsome appearance on the Pacific Coast; indeed, a building which every citizen may look upon with just pride and admiration. We may be proud not only because of its symmetry and beauty without, but also on account of its magnificence and splendor within.

But, while exercising much care as to the appearance of the interior of the building, it seems that the architects overlooked one practical and useful feature of its construction. I refer to the solid oak doors that have been installed in offices on the west side of the building. Were these entrances partly of glass they would permit the light from without to shine through into the corridors. As it is, the hallways are made so dark and gloomy by shutting out the light that it will now be necessary to keep the building illumined by artificial light in the daytime.

Of course a certain degree of expense would be incurred in making the change by placing glass panels in the doors which are now of solid wood, but I earnestly believe that the substitution of daylight by this means for artificial light would, in the long run, be a saving to the taxpayers of the city. W. VERNON.

PENSIONS MERELY A PALLIATIVE

Socialistic Programme Is Suggested as a Positive Cure.

PORTLAND, Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The bill recently introduced in the Oregon Legislature, which, if enacted into law, will grant pensions to widows, is one of deep interest to all philanthropists. Its purpose is good and must appeal to all. Like all poor-relief legislation, however, it is palliative only, and leaves the root of the evil unchecked.

The necessity for such relief as widows' pensions, old-age pensions, and other forms of public relief arises from our economic conditions. Under our present economic system, some such legislation is commendable and perhaps necessary. The competitive system in the employment of labor is carried to its limit. Between the employer and the employe there is no mutuality of contract. The employer names the wage he is willing to give, and the employe may take it or leave it alone. If he adopts the second alternative, both he and his family may starve.

In nearly all cases in the competitive industrial world the wage offered is a bare subsistence. No margin is allowed for accident, sickness or old age. The wonderful mechanical inventions and scientific discoveries of the last 50 years have increased the productivity of labor many fold. While its efficiency has been increased, its wage has remained nearly stationary. The result of this has been to increase the power of the employer over the employed. When sickness, disability or old age comes, the worker must become a public charge. It is a subject of public policy as to what form the relief shall take. All industrial workers must sink lower and lower in the scale of physical and mental being till all power of initiative is lost and they become mere machines.

The pension system is a step in the direction of communism. As a palliative it may grant temporary relief. Its final outcome will be bad. The loss of initiative will cause the employed to rely upon public relief with the advent of sickness, disability or old age. To the mind of the writer, the remedy for all this, and the one which will go to the root of the whole matter, is the abrogation of the entire competitive labor system, and in its stead to capitalize industrial labor. That is, give to the industrial worker his reasonable share of the profits of his industry. By the law of natural ethics, labor should share with capital the profits created by their joint efforts. In its final elements all created value is the product of labor, and that product should be equitably divided. To accomplish this, the present law of contract between the employer and the employe must be abrogated. Under the present law the employer may contract with his employe as to the wage, and if there is no express contract the law will imply an agreement to pay a reasonable wage. The proof of a reasonable wage is that sum for which a like service could be obtained in that particular community. In other words, it is such a sum as employers of that kind of labor in that community choose to offer.

The amended law should permit the laborer at all times to recover the reasonable value of his labor. This should be true, notwithstanding that there might exist a contract to pay a specific sum, provided the sum was unreasonable. In every case for the recovery of wages, the court should determine the reasonable value by determining the value of the product, and by equitably dividing the profits between the labor and the capital producing it.

Under the present business system, and under the law as it now stands, the contract agreement prevails. Under the proposed system, the reasonable value as above indicated would prevail. This should be because, as the matter now stands, the contract is not mutual; it is one-sided. The competitive system, when applied to wages, is not, and never has been, competitive. The wage paid has always been arbitrary, and not at all commensurate with the wealth created by labor. Indeed, some of the most profitable industries pay the lowest wage scale.

The operation of the principle, "a reasonable value for the product of labor," as above defined, would abrogate the necessity of all forms of pensions, charitable relief, of all communistic and socialistic agitation, and would create a well-to-do, intelligent, upright and patriotic citizenship.

GRANVILLE G. AMES.

FOR A RURAL SUPERVISORY LAW

Oregon Normal School Student Discusses Subject at Length.

MONMOUTH, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—On the part of the student body of the Oregon normal school, I wish to convey to The Oregonian our sincere appreciation of your strong editorials of January 15, 16 and 22 in support of the rural supervisory law.

This law is of vital importance to the great majority of the students here and we have all watched with keen interest the recent fight to repeal it. The majority of men students have spent two or more years preparing for positions under this law and its repeal would have meant a loss of that much time and money and a corresponding set-back in beginning on another course. Of the women fully 85 per cent have either taught in the rural school or intend to teach there. They have gotten at first hand the advantages or defects of this law and are unanimously in favor of retaining it.

No one denies that the supervisory system has been grossly abused in a few instances. If an inefficient man is appointed for political purposes, why blame the system? That is the fault of another "system" a little higher up and we believe better success might attend efforts to repeal, or recall, I guess would be better, this other "system." The other objection to supervisors, that of expense, breaks down when you stop to figure exactly the cost per taxpayer. And further it becomes ridiculous when the expense of city supervision is compared with that of country supervision. There is no valid reason why the country child should not have the advantages the city child has along educational lines. But he does not get them and why he does not get them is clearly stated in your editorial of January 16.

The editorial of January 22 entitled "The Things One Ought to Know," and answering some objection to the so-called "fads" in the curriculum, also received much attention and your citing of the case was thoroughly enjoyed. Vocational education, or the introduction of agriculture, domestic science, manual training and kindred subjects, into the public schools has met with much strenuous opposition, too often backed up by the newspapers. Such an editorial as the one mentioned is a decided encouragement to those of us who are preparing to become teachers not because we have to or because we can't do anything else, but because we want to.

With The Oregonian, we normal students "hope to see the day that pig raising as well as chicken raising will be taught in the public schools." All too often the press remains passive on movements of educational progress, or if they cost money, actively fights them. We, at the state normal, are preparing for a profession that is as yet underpaid and by many people looked down upon. When the curriculum is readjusted so as to make school what it should really be, preparation for life or earning a living, then teachers will be men and women who are "live-wires," up to the minute and progressive in every sense. The incompetents will be weeded out and we will be members of a profession we may well be proud of. This end will be more rapidly accomplished when the press of the country and the people take the stand The Oregonian has on the rural supervisory law. WILLIAM H. BURTON,
President student body, Oregon Normal School.

COURT PROCEDURE IS DISCUSSED

Redmond Lawyer Goes Into Proposed Revision of Rules.

REDMOND, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I have been much interested in the discussion now going on over the revision of the laws relative to court practice, and have concluded to say a few words as to how the matter looks to a man just in from the East. It seems to me that the practice could be much simplified without in any ways affecting its proficiency. In South Dakota the practice is to issue the summons with a copy of the complaint attached. The summons requires the defendant to serve upon the attorney for the plaintiff, within 30 days after the service of the summons, a copy of his answer or other pleadings. If this is not served within said time the plaintiff is entitled to judgment in the amount claimed in the summons. This is obtained by presenting to the judge the original complaint with the summons thereto attached showing service and the affidavit of the attorney for the plaintiff that no answer or other pleading has been served upon him. The judge then inspects the papers, and if he finds that legal service has been made he signs the judgment, which, when filed with the clerk, together with the other papers mentioned, constitutes the record in the case.

If the case is settled or does not go to judgment for any reason no papers are filed and no costs incurred, other than the service of the summons. I practiced there several years and the system gave perfect satisfaction, and as only about one case in five goes to judgment, it resulted in a great saving in costs. This practice applied in equity as well as at law. All motions, demurrers, etc., could be taken up by the judge at chambers at any place in the district, and it was not necessary to wait until term time to get them disposed of. By that practice the way was cleared for the actual trial of the cases when the court set. It also seems to me that much time and expense could be saved by simplifying the practice on appeals. Let every paper filed in the case become a part of the record to the same extent as the pleadings now are. Then let the reporter's notes, when extended and filed with the clerk, also become a part of the record. Also, let all exhibits used in the trial of the case, when properly identified by the reporter and attached to his transcript of his notes become a part of the record. By adopting this plan the appellant could incorporate such portions of the record in his abstract as he thought necessary. If the respondent wanted anything else incorporated therein he could file his abstract. In case neither party filed objections to the abstract thus made up the two together would be held to present the entire case to the Supreme Court. But in case either party deemed that any material part of the record was contained in said abstracts, or in case any dispute arose between the parties as to what the record actually was, then the transcript of the record, so far as it concerned any point in dispute, could be certified up to the Supreme Court by the clerk of the trial court.

I would favor doing away with exceptions taken at the trial. In Iowa, where I practiced for some time, the law required exceptions to be taken the same as it does here, but the judges instructed the reporter to note an exception to each ruling of the court, taking it for granted that any party would feel aggrieved at any adverse ruling. Then, in my opinion, all distinctions between suits in equity and actions at law should be done away with. It looks nonsensical to me to see the judge, as chancellor, restrain himself as judge of the court of common pleas from proceeding further in a case simply because an equitable defense has been pleaded. Why not let him go ahead and do full justice between the parties without any regard to forms? J. A. WILCOX.

Protection From Crop Pests.

CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.) — Oregon is undoubtedly threatened with an invasion of the alfalfa weevil and measures should be taken to prevent this catastrophe, if possible.

An amendment to the state horticultural law has been introduced in the Legislature empowering this board to establish quarantines to prevent hay being brought into the state from states infested with the pest, but this does not go far enough. It is known that the weevil may possibly be introduced through other channels than hay and if, perchance, it should get into the state we have no law whatever that would enable us to control the pest.

In the absence of a crop pest commission and in the interest of economy, it would be well to give the State Board of Horticulture authority to deal with the difficulty by amending the present horticultural law to include with fruit pests "all agricultural crop pests."

It would indeed be very unfortunate to have this pest introduced, as alfalfa is rapidly becoming the staple crop over a large area in the state. The weevil practically destroys this crop wherever it gains a good foothold. JAMES WITHYCOMBE.

Atonement Views Rather Broad.

MONMOUTH, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Some days ago, while perusing the columns of The Oregonian, I noted an account of a former rivalry between E. R. Lockhart and Rev. J. K. Howard, Representative from Douglas County. I was somewhat amused and chagrined to read the latter's version of the cause of the San Francisco earthquake, "A visitation from God Almighty to the people, because of their sins."

Viewed from its religious side, I would like to say that I think the doctrine of the atonement must be pretty broad if it will cover the case of a man who will charge the Almighty with willfully bringing such a dire calamity upon the innocent and guilty alike. And, my heavens, what "science!" The article did not say that he was preaching to a congregation of Indians, but I am inclined to think he must have been.

No wonder he is at present fighting education and seeks to have the rural school supervisors put out of business; their "science" probably does not agree with his. Are we to take this as an index to the mental breadth of the man? A. J. WELLER.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of January 28, 1863.

The Statesman says that Mr. David Harvey, heir of Dr. McLoughlin, last week paid into the State Treasury $1000 in coin in pursuance of an act of the last Assembly, relinquishing the state's claim to the Oregon City land claim.

Auburn, Jan. 16.—Business is at a standstill. Even dancing has declined until we only have some half a dozen balls and parties a week, but still the emigrant girls are getting married and the balance of them are being courted.

A Portland correspondent of the Statesman says that C. H. Hale, Superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, has been guilty of paying out greenbacks to his agents after drawing his share of the public appropriations in gold.

There is a mail route established between Vancouver and Walla Walla, which the Washington Statesman denounces. It carries only the Vancouver mail to Walla Walla and the Walla Walla mail to Vancouver, taking no way matter.

A wagon road has been projected from Lewiston to the Boise mines. The distance is 185 miles.