

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-class matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance. Daily, Sunday included, one year.....\$3.00

How to Reach—Send Postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamp, coin or currency on the sender's risk. Five cent postage 1 cent; 16 to 25 pages, 2 cents; 26 to 40 pages, 3 cents; 41 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage, double rate.

Portland, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1913.

WILSON'S ANTI-TRUST BILLS.

Governor Wilson's measures for lifting from New Jersey the reproach of being the mother of trusts are of unusual importance, both because of the hints they give of the policy he will pursue as President and because they mark the abandonment of the "wildcat" policy of the state which first adopted that policy.

Wilson is committed, both by his speeches and his platform, to the principle of state rights, to treatment of Federal legislation against trusts as supplementary to state legislation. Nevertheless his seven bills give valuable hints of the lines on which he will ask Congress to legislate.

He places foremost the principle that guilt is personal by providing that directors of corporations be held personally guilty. He has adopted Bryan's slogan, "Send them to jail," by providing for either fine or imprisonment or both as the penalty for offenders.

One of the bills attempts a more exact definition of restraint of trade in order to gratify those who complain that the Sherman law is so vague that they cannot know whether certain acts are lawful or unlawful. The penalty is fine or imprisonment or both.

This is the definition: Any combination or agreement between two or more corporations, firms or persons, to create restrictions on the sale of goods, to increase prices, prevent competition in manufacturing, transporting or selling any commodity, to make any agreement or to make any agreement directly or indirectly precluding a free and unrestricted competition to make any agreement or to make any agreement whereby the same thing is accomplished.

Watering of stock is forbidden and exactly defined by a provision which would prevent such operations as that by which John W. Gates transmuted \$24,000,000 of stock in a corporation he controlled into \$90,000,000 of stock in a new corporation, of which \$26,000,000 mysterious, of which \$26,000,000 mysterious.

Mergers are to be allowed, but new stock issued in payment must not exceed in value the property acquired, which also must be cognate in character and must be used by the purchasing corporation "in the direct conduct of its own proper business."

Certificates of such purchases must be filed with the Secretary of State and false statements expose the guilty persons to punishment. Purchase by one corporation of property or stock of another corporation "for the purpose of restraining trade or acquiring a monopoly" is made a misdemeanor.

Holding companies, which are a peculiar product of New Jersey, are forbidden, but this bill applies only to future corporations. It does not disturb existing companies though it prevents them from extending their holdings.

It is hopeless to expect that every state will do this. Long as one state remains open to trust organizers, state action will be powerless as a remedy. Federal incorporation would encounter such general opposition from the states, hungry for fees, that its adoption is not possible. The alternative is a Federal license to state corporations engaged in interstate commerce. This would allow the states to keep their fees, but would in effect nullify the laws of those states which bid for trust organization.

HARMONY.

Mr. Davey sends from Burns a loud call for the Republican party to get together on a platform of progressive-reform and of explicit and unquestioning adherence to the Oregon system. We would not discourage Mr. Davey in his laudable purpose; but, if the Legislature is to be used as the basis of the new harmony movement, it would seem to be plain that the Republican majority is doing a first-rate job of getting together and staying together. The Governor did it with his Hittl ax; the Governor's political newspaper marionettes are helping it along mightily by their sneers and fibes and slanders of the Legislatures; the Governor's Democratic janissaries are demonstrating their clear benefits by their whining unreasoning and disaffection. For Republican lack of harmony, long a jest in Democratic mouths, is nevertheless the Democratic opportunity.

There are no Progressives (with a capital P) in the Legislature; though there are two or three pseudo progressive members. The Governor did it with his Hittl ax; the Governor's political newspaper marionettes are helping it along mightily by their sneers and fibes and slanders of the Legislatures; the Governor's Democratic janissaries are demonstrating their clear benefits by their whining unreasoning and disaffection.

The Republican party in Oregon stands there now. But the problem is to get the stray sheep (the Progressives) back into the fold. The woolen manufacturers are in tears before Congress over the proposed reduction of the wool tariff. The industry will be ruined, if you touch one brick or stick or straw of the wool tariff edifice, they say.

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AN AMERICAN ACADEMY. Congress has been asked to incorporate "The American Academy" with the following list of members, all of whom are supposed to be immortal: Woodrow Wilson, Dean Howells, Henry James, William C. Thomas, R. Lounsbury, Theodor Roosevelt, John S. Sargent, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Daniel Chester French, John Burroughs, James Ford Rhodes, Horatio W. Parker, William Milligan Sloane, R. Underwood Johnson, George W. Cable, Andrew White, Henry Van Dyke, William C. Brownell, Basil L. Gildersleeve, Arthur T. Hadley, Henry Cabot Lodge, F. Hopkinson Smith, Edwin H. Blashfield, Owen Winter, Augustus Thomas, William M. Chase, Thomas Hastings, Hamilton Wright Mable, Brander Matthews, Thomas Nelson Page, Ellhu Vedder, George Edson, William C. Howells, George W. Whitefield Chadwick, Abbott H. Thayer, John Muir, Charles Francis Adams, Henry Mills Alden, George de Forest Brush, William Rutherford Mead, John W. Alexander, Bliss Perry, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, James Whitcomb Riley, Nicholas Murray Butler, Paul Wayland Bartlett, George Brown Goethel.

THE WOMEN AS JURORS. The philosophic mind is moved to melancholy reflection by one of the objections made to women jurors in the Colorado Legislature. A bill came up that would allow women to sit on the jury, but it was defeated by a vote of 10 to 9.

THE WOMAN WHO VOTED FOR JACKSON. The man who voted for Jackson and his hair grow until Cleveland was elected has offspring due for a trimming when Wilson is elected. Many Democrats are consistent in their obstinacy.

ENGLISH TOURISTS NOW UNDERSTAND that only gunmen and their police protectors are allowed to carry firearms in New York. The good citizen's safety lies in giving up on demand.

THE MAN WHO BEATS THE MOTHER OF HIS ELEVEN-DAY-OLD CHILD should be tried before a jury of women. It is this estimate of the man who beats his wife that is the most excellent animals to call him a brute.

WHY SHOULD A CITY EMPLOY A FREE RIDE, while the man beside him, who must dig up the money for the ride? The man who beats his wife should be tried before a jury of women.

LET REPUBLICANS GET TOGETHER. Burnside Call is sounded From Burns by M. Davey. BURNS, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—I do not believe that party political success should be a paramount consideration under all circumstances.

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The Fan's Rubaiyat

Wake, for the Spring is fumbling at the knocker; Soon Winter furs are destined for the locker. Wake, baseball fan, the season speeds apace In which men think of basketball and soccer.

Soon the warm sun, returning on its beat, Will touch the land in spots, with Springtime heat; And heroes of the diamond will adorn The pink expanses of the sporting sheet.

Though still the frost may linger, and the fall Of Winter snow may spread without the hall, Draw out thy dope sheet, limber up a bit And gamble on the future of baseball.

For soon to California's land of drouth, Bound for the Springtime training camps down South, The Northern teams will ramble o'er the rail, And many rumors fly from mouth to mouth.

And we shall watch them vanish down the track, The diamond artists of the subtle "Mac"; Have you the Winter, and we'll try to guess, What sort of lineup he will bring us back.

Of past transactions I remember well, Which, in the seasons now departed, fell— Say, manager, e'er buy a man One-half so precious as the ones he'll sell!

Full early 'tis to cast a horoscope, And on the Beavers draw a line of dope; But it is easy at this time of year To open up a copious can of hope.

Let, then, the records of past sorrows die, Begin to take a new slant at the sky, And in your visions over Portland's fields Behold the nineteen thirteen pennant fly.

Fans, to the glowing future cast your lamp, For though the present month be dour and damp, Full soon the time is coming when you'll Will hang expectant round the training camp.

For Spring already fumbles at the knocker; The season soon will come—and none can block 'er— When we must eat and sleep and sweat, The Cascade road is nearly closed, And soon the feeble Winter sports, like soccer.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of January 29, 1863. The colored population of Victoria filled an artillery salute from Beacon Hill on the receipt of the news that Mr. Lincoln had issued his emancipation proclamation. For this they were fined, as the hill is used to fire signal guns on the arrival of ships, and its use by the colored people gave a false signal.

Walla Walla, W. T., Jan. 23.—Miners are moving for the mines, especially for the Boise Valley. There are now, it is supposed, 2000 there. There are 300 buildings already erected in Placerville.

The Oregon Steam Navigation Company is going on with giant strides to connect the river navigation by railroads. The Cascade road is nearly completed. The Deschutes road will be completed in May or June.

A lot of stray Indians from the Siletz Agency are hanging about town. There are also some Spokanes in this vicinity, who have been working for citizens, making by the way, a very respectable means. Night before last the members of the two contending tribes engaged in a free and indiscriminate fight, characterized by a great deal of ferocity.

The Indians on the Oregon Indian Reservation appear to be immoral at the prevailing hills. Since the establishment of the reservations, none have died and doubtless many have been born. This appears to arise from the fact that rations are regularly distributed at the cost of the Government to these savages. Of course, they would not die for fear some agent would draw the cost of the rations the same as if they were alive.

CASUAL AND MERCHANT MARINE. VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Does the act of Congress exempting United States coastwise vessels from tolls for passage through the Panama Canal violate the Hay-Pauncefote treaty?

(2) Under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, do the United States have the right to place a toll on the weather map for that day. It is at once apparent that a statement of this kind in these papers would at once identify the author as a resident of Portland, when, as a matter of fact, at the times mentioned Portland weather was far superior to and far balmier than that of Seattle, California.

Seattle feared the same as Portland in this respect and now that the rivalry between Seattle and Portland has been determined, it is a good thing if they would both join hands and in some manner appease the dense jealousy of the southern cities have of our climate. C. T. HAAS.

FREE TEXT BOOKS ARE FAVORED. Schools Must Be Kept Up by All Classes of People. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—In looking through the communication of W. Vernon in The Sunday Oregonian, I find some things which appear to me to be entirely official and misleading. In the first place I cannot see how the "property-owner" pure and simple can have any interest except such as the taxpayer voluntarily in the public school system of the State of Oregon.

It is the heads of families, property-owners or renters, whichever they may be. And by the way, however the money is raised, it is as important as the property-owner, as he pays the taxes, interest on the money invested and other incidental charges up to him in the way of rent. A great many people have studied the free textbook proposition on purely economic and patriotic grounds. Under a free textbook system there is a great saving in books and stationery, where the students must practice care and habits of cleanliness in handling the materials sent to them by the public. For instance, take a book owned by a student in either the grammar or high schools in the City of Portland and compare it with the book lent by the Public Library, and one can read a story without words. Further, is it in keeping with our American institutions to ask the children of the indigent parent to step up to the teacher's desk and say, "I am a beggar, can I have a free book?" Young Americans seem to have some feelings of this order. Our teachers are "property-owners," so to speak, they have some particular claim on American institutions. They forget that the people now is the time to load himself towards these institutions and things in general. Of course, people who do not have children must subscribe taxes, too. That is the only way.

ROBERT C. WRIGHT. In the Mode. She's slender as the graceful reed, A tight skirt vision rare, But where are all the padded coats That she's used to wear? —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

WARREN HAS WYOMING WELLS IN HAND. Economic waste continues in the unutilized Federal lands. Warren has Wyoming wells in hand.