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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 1913.

WRANGLING OVER SPOILS.

By their filibuster against confirmation of President Taft's appointments, Democratic Senators are imperiling the success of the incoming Administration. They cannot complain if the Republicans, angered by their stubbornness, should resort to the same tactics in order to block confirmation of Wilson's appointments. The Democratic majority will be so small (it may even depend on the casting vote of the Vice-President) that the Republicans will be in a position to make no end of trouble. Only constant vigilance on the part of the Democrats can prevent their opponents from occasionally gaining victory on a snap vote. This danger can be warded off only by an alliance with the Progressives, who will surely demand a price which can only be paid at the expense of those principles which the Democrats have promised to put in practice.

The people have not put the Democrats in power to fight about patronage. The large measure of progressive support which gave the Presidency and Congress to the Democrats is due to a desire for legislation which the country urgently needs. The turning over of the offices to the Democrats is a mere incident. The general public does not care one cent whether the Federal officials are Republicans or Democrats, provided they are reasonably honest and competent. Should the passage of the progressive laws for which the people look to the new Administration be prevented by a sordid wrangle for the spoils, the Democrats may look for severe punishment at the election of 1914 and their majority may fade away.

President Taft had an undoubted right to fill every office falling vacant during his term and it is the equally undoubted duty of the Senate to confirm his appointments unless there are other than partisan reasons or reasons growing out of personal antagonism why they should not be confirmed. If a Republican President and a Republican Senate should be elected in 1916, Wilson would have an equal right to fill all offices then vacant and it would equally be the duty of the Senate to confirm them, even though it should be under Republican control.

This whole controversy about offices proves the wisdom of President Taft's recommendation that all subordinate officers—all except heads of departments and of important bureaus having in charge the execution of administrative policies—shall be put under civil service rules. The objection that this would entrench in office an army of men of the party which happened to be in power at the time when the change was made is redolent of the narrowest partisanship. If the measure has merit in itself, aside from its partisan results, now is the time to pass it, for at whatever time it be passed it will have that effect; hence to postpone it to a time when it will not have such effect is to postpone it forever.

That Taft's civil service reform policy is in the highest degree for the public good is obvious. The spectacle of the man to whom the people are looking for initiation of reforms vastly important to their welfare frittering away his time in considering whether Bill Jones or Tom Smith shall be United States Marshal of some judicial district would be laughable if it were not so serious. The same may be said of the Senate passing hours in executive session for the consideration of these petty questions, when that time should be spent in considering constructive legislation for which the people are impatient.

The progressive movement in all parties aims to raise politics above the plane of a quarrel for spoils to the higher plane of rivalry in service to the people. Men who cannot see that this is the lesson of recent political events are so blind as to lack the first essential of progressiveness.

THE NORTHWEST PULLS TOGETHER.

The spirit which animated the members of the joint commission of Oregon and Washington legislators on the Columbia River bridge goes far to assure its construction. When men from every section of both states are so completely of one mind in favor of so great a project, small differences of opinion will disappear in the anxiety to promote the main purpose, and success is assured in advance.

The bridge will do more than unite the cities of Portland and Vancouver; it will do more than unite Multnomah and Clark Counties. It will unite two whole states in a bond of common interest. It will mark the passing of sectionalism. We shall hear less of the Willamette Valley, the southwest counties of Washington and the northwest counties of Oregon, the Puget Sound country and the Big Bend country. We shall hear more of the Pacific Northwest as a united whole, of the Pacific Coast as bound together by unity of interest and sentiment. The building of the bridge will be followed in natural sequence by the construction of the Pacific Highway from our northern to our southern border and of numerous branch highways to east and west. That done, no visitor to any part of the Pacific Coast will consider his tour complete until he has traversed its whole length and has viewed all its wealth, all its resources, all its thriving, ambitious, expanding cities. The bridge is the first necessary link in the great highway the tourist will travel.

The unanimity of the joint committee places two great measures in the first rank of importance before the Oregon Legislature. One of these is the interstate bridge bill. The other is a good roads bill. We have delayed long enough to deliberate how we shall go about the work of road-building. Out of the multiplicity of bills now before the Legislature, that body should be able to mold one or more which will give due consideration to state, county and local interests. Without such a measure we cannot have good roads on the scale needed and without good roads we cannot derive full benefit from the bridge.

GOVERNOR'S RECALL POWERS.

The invincible prejudice of the Legislature toward Governor West and all his works is likely to bring about the defeat of the highly meritorious McColloch bill to confer upon the Governor the power of recall over all Sheriffs, Constables and Prosecuting Attorneys. It is unfortunate. The prerogatives of the Governor in this vastly important matter ought to be equal to the power of the people. That is all he asks; and he wants to hold it for only ninety days.

The objection that the Governor, in asking that he have the right of suspension and of substituting special officers in the places of men who do not please him is seeking to undermine the Oregon system is hardly worthy of notice. The Governor wouldn't think of such a thing. He is the undying champion of the Oregon system, and woe to him—or to her—who touches a hair on that fair head. Yet of course there are times when the people cannot or will not recall a public official; and, since the recall is a fundamental principle of the Oregon system, and somebody should occasionally be recalled, the Governor will undertake to do it himself.

It is all right, we think. The Governor ought to have the power to suspend a public official who fails or refuses to do his duty. Here and there we have a Governor who is not implicitly trusted by the people, but nevertheless responsibility and control ought to attach to that high office, and, if we have an unfit Governor, we have the recall and can—or should—get another.

EXPOSING FAMILY CONCERNS.

Senator Ragsdale has a little bill at Salem ostensibly designed to protect so-called innocent purchasers, but actually certain to work vast hardship and real humiliation upon large numbers of people. It ought to be labeled a "bill to expose the intimate affairs and private concerns of all families in Oregon who buy household articles on the installment plan." The legal title is Senate bill 100, "providing for the recording and foreclosure of all conditional notes and contracts for the sale of personal property, and declaring the same void unless so recorded."

Let us see what effect upon the personal and domestic business of thousands of citizens enactment of this measure will have. Under modern conditions much furniture, for example, is sold on the installment plan; and so are stoves, books, carpets, pianos, musical instruments of all kinds, household utensils and the like. It is undeniable that the installment plan is a source of comfort and convenience to the poor man as well as to many not poor. If it is necessary that his negotiation with any business house be publicly recorded, the result will be that great notoriety will be given to a transaction that is entirely proper and commendable, but is in its very nature a family matter, and nothing else. Who wants the world to know whether his household furnishings are paid for in cash or on credit? What right has the world to know? What will be the consequence, except annoyance, gossip and general nuisance?

No hardship is worked by any reputable concern on any honest purchaser by installment. It is said that 98 per cent of all installment purchases in Portland are paid for promptly, and without recourse to summary action of any kind. Which means that people in this city both desire to meet their obligations and are able to meet them.

If, on the other hand, furniture in any house may be mortgaged or sold, without regard to the rights or equities of the original owner, the loan shark will be in his glory. It will be an open invitation to collusion with money sharpers and with dishonest buyers of articles having a questionable title.

What innocent purchaser ever goes to any one's house and buys its contents without inquiry as to their actual status? Is he entitled to be regarded as an innocent purchaser when he asks no questions and deliberately takes a chance?

WHO OUGHT TO GET THE MONEY?

In the State of Washington the privilege of running for office is open to every citizen who has the price, and the price is the fee charged by the county, city or state for the filing of a certificate of nomination. No petition is required. It is related that in one election a man whom nobody outside of his own village had ever heard of before paid the Secretary of State $60 and became a candidate for Governor. When asked why he was a candidate, he replied, in effect:

"The direct primary is all wrong. I am giving a practical demonstration of how it permits a hair-brained freak to run for office."

The demonstration was instructive as to the ease of getting on the ticket, but the unknown did not run very far or very fast. The people gave consideration only to the leading candidates on the ticket.

It seems that those who are opposing in Oregon a change to the Washington method are possessed of the idea that such demonstrations are now impossible in this state. Theoretically they are not, but practically they are. Petition backing for a would-be candidate is pure farce. The man who desires to run for office hands a petition-hawker a stated sum and thinks no more about it. The petition-hawker gets the required number of names. The ordinary voter signs without giving thought as to the qualifications of the candidate or to his intent to vote or not to vote for him.

Nor have we heard that the professional name-chaser makes any difference in his charges for securing names for unknown and the well-known candidates. Occasionally friends of some prominent citizen circulate his petition out of admiration or respect and without charge. But most candidates must now resort to the ready workers for a price, who haunt the Courthouse at the time nomination declarations are being filed.

The chief argument for dispensing with the petition and charging a legal fee for nomination filings is a sound one. It is that the money that would otherwise go to perpetrate a farce and moral fraud is devoted to a good purpose. If nominations of any material proportion of candidates came from the people, the substitution of the fee system for the petition plan would be ill advised. But the stalking horse, the self-advertiser, the freak and the inefficient are not hampered in the least by the petition plan in aspiring to office. They are ever with us.

The bill at Salem presents but one question: Who is better entitled to the candidate's money, the professional name-getter or the taxpayers on whom every candidacy for office is an expense?

AN IMPORTANT ARMY ORDER.

Grim and cruel is an order just issued to the United States Army. It makes the harsh provision that Captains and Lieutenants must spend at least two years out of every six with troops. All of which means an end to the delightful lot of those social and political favorites of the Army who long have basked uninterrupted in the warm glow of detached service sinecures.

Naturally, a mighty volume of protest has gone up from that portion of Washington which, since Roosevelt infected the Army with the germs of favoritism, has been wont to harbor and reward military pets for distinguished conduct in the ballroom or on the golf links. But the War Department is firm, Congress is firm; hence the military careers of scores of gallant Army officers may hereafter lead them from the perfumed confines of tea rooms to the pungent areas of Philippine bamboo jungles.

All the while that these Washington military pets are agog with hot but futile indignation, what must be the feelings of those hundreds of misguided officers who have been devoting their whole attention to military science rather than to the cultivation of political pulls? What thinks the man in the Army who isn't related to the relative of some friend of a Congressman's brother-in-law? It is a sad blow, to be sure, to the type of premature Brigadier-General whose father-in-law is a member of the military affairs committee in the Senate. But think of the long-deferred hope it must raise in the breast of the serious-minded officer who has been content to make himself efficient rather than popular. And it is this last-named type that predominates in the service. The new order will go a long way towards restoring an Army morale that was beginning to disintegrate under the taint of prolonged favoritism.

AN IMPULSE TO PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

Psychical research is looking up in the world. If its foes and despisers do not look to their outworks it is in a fair way to storm them and become respectable. Harvard University, staid and conservative in all that pertains to ghosts, has accepted an endowment of $10,000 to promote occult investigation and who knows when other colleges may follow its alluring example? Professors are as deeply interested in spirits and the problem of the future life as anybody else and no doubt as soon as they can pluck up the courage to do so they will begin to teach psychic science in their class rooms as they do electricity and Greek. The new branch of knowledge has had to fight its way in the world against bitter opposition, but that is true of all the sciences. The early astronomers were haled before the Inquisition, and, if all reports are true, some of them were tortured for their discoveries. When Galileo announced that he had discovered a moon of Jupiter the educational lights of his day peeked into their Aristotle to see if the sage mentioned that Jupiter had moons. Finding he did not, they declared that Galileo must be a liar as well as a heretic.

That is about the attitude which orthodox science has maintained toward psychical research up to the present time. If the researchers learned anything new they were ridiculed for their credulity. If they found nothing their temporary failure was taken as proof positive that there was nothing to be found. More bigotry has been exhibited in regard to occult investigation than in all other subjects together. A man of science who ventured to inspect the facts offered by the mediums and their disciples might as well die at once, for the learned world would have nothing more to do with him. To be sure, Sir Oliver Lodge and Alfred Russell Wallace were tolerated by their colleagues after they had decided that psychic phenomena were not all humbug, but the toleration was barely civil. Reactionary savants lost no opportunity to sneer at them and steadfastly refused to inquire into the truth of the matter. This attitude cannot persist a great while longer now that Harvard has accepted a fund to be used for psychical research. The demonstrated facts in this sphere will soon be admitted to the same standing as any other facts and little by little the truth will come to light. Those who fear that the occult will always remain obscured by charlatanism and deception ought to remember that astronomy was once the same thing as astrology, while chemistry began as alchemy. Both astrology and alchemy, though they are still practiced by swindlers and believed in by blockheads, are far greater frauds than the worst brand of mediumship.

Medicine is today as respectable as a science can be, for it is not many years since it was pure deception. Up to very modern times Galen served the whole profession as a book of magic from which incantations and spells were taken for the cure of diseases. As late as the publication of Gil Blas medicine was mere charlatanry, at least in practice. The theory had developed a little, but those who taught advanced ideas were looked upon very much as psychical researchers are now by the worshipers of ignorance. In the long run truth always comes to its own, and if the investigators of the occult have anything of value to offer, the world will in due time receive it gladly. But have they anything to offer? It cannot be denied that they have a little and what its value may ultimately be nobody can tell. The fact that a bit of amber when rubbed with silk would attract a straw lay dormant for 2000 years. It was amusing but worthless. Then Franklin and Faraday took hold of it and made it a foundation wall of civilization. It is not wise to despise even an apparently trifling fact. It may be a genl in disguise. Psychical research has found that at the moment of death the image of the dying person may appear to a friend on the other side of the world. Is the image his spirit or is it merely a sort of photograph transmitted by telepathy? Nobody knows. And yet the fact is as firmly established as that mystic property of amber which was the germ of electrical science. When it is explained, as it will be some time, very likely we shall have a whole world of new knowledge opened up and all our ideas and ways of thinking will change to correspond with it.

The current fashion is to deny the truth of pretty nearly all "supernormal" phenomena and account for the rest of them by telepathy. This word means thought transmission without speech, sign or gesture. Some say the thought goes through the ether by vibrations like light and heat. Perhaps it does. What is thought? Parmenides said it was the only reality in the universe. George Eliot said it was the friction of the living machine. As the machine grows more perfect, she believed, it will think less and less until it finally runs without consciousness. We dare say Parmenides was nearer right about it than the illustrious precursor of Mrs. Humphrey Ward. Thought or consciousness, which is the same thing, may be a form of vibration in the ether or in something else. There is a belief held by many that every thought we have sets the universal medium shaking and is thus preserved to all eternity so that the Almighty can refer to it as often as he wishes. Unpleasant as this may be to a certain species of doubters, it may still be true, and if it is true why may not one brain be so much in tune with another as to be a receiver for its thought? And if consciousness is a mode of vibration, all we require for immortality is that the source of the waves shall keep up its supply of energy in some way. Thus the problem of the spirit world reduces to one of pure mechanics and may ultimately be solved by the calculus.

That the steel trust was tightening its grip on the steel industry by freezing out independent miners of iron ore when the Government's suit frightened it into canceling the Hill ore leases is shown by the testimony at the hearing of the steel trust suit in New York. By preventing the independents from securing a supply of ore, it forced them to sell out. The power which controls the supply of raw material for any industry controls that industry, no matter how small a share of the finished product it may manufacture. Wilson probably had this in mind when he spoke of the manner in which the natural resources of the country are exploited.

When the farmers' representatives told the House committee on currency reform that "farmers need long term loans in order that they may become owners instead of tenants," they pointed to the remedy for an ominous fact shown by the census. That fact is the increase in the number of tenant farmers. The strength of this Nation consists largely in the ownership of farms by the men who cultivate them and of homes in the cities by the men who occupy them. Legislation should aim to discourage the acquisition of large tracts of land by few men, who rent it to tenants, for that is a step towards foundation of an aristocracy.

Out of 7388 National banks in the United States, no more than eight failed last year. This was a trifle more than one in a thousand. The record is admirable. It speaks volumes for the perfection of the system of public control under which the National banks exist and seems to warrant its extension to some other forms of business. But there is another thought in the same connection which is not quite so pleasant. The people who lost their money in the eight unfortunate banks no doubt feel just as sorrowful as if the whole system had collapsed. Misery is always individual.

Portland school elections are too farcical to be taken seriously if they did not entail such serious consequences. It is preposterous to think of voting bonds for $1,000,000 in a little chamber accessible to a few people only at an election which, like a pink tea, lasts from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. The affair partakes too much of the exclusiveness of a social function given by a member of the 400 to the chosen few.

Would the Democrats give votes to the Moros, whose conception of government is displayed by their habitual brigandage? The medicine General Pershing has been administering to them seems a better remedy for their complaint than the self-government which the Democrats offer.

A press dispatch says Christobel Pankhurst is the brains of the London militant suffragettes. The secret is out. The identity of the wonderful strategist who is so successfully directing that campaign is disclosed.

The lawyers will revel in the nice points involved in the question whether the Milwaukee saloonkeeper who was frightened to death by a shot which did not touch him was murdered.

California apple growers threaten to sell direct to the consumers unless San Francisco middlemen handle their produce immediately. What, let the consumer go unplucked?

If those militant suffragettes in London are not all widows and old maids there must be something wrong with their husbands.

Princeton boys are shining shoes to pay expenses, but doing it with hired help. One of the benefits of a college education is ability to boss a job.

War between the systems that "own" the Pacific Northwest will stimulate building of railroads, and that is what the region needs.

Nebraskans have named a committee to secure publicity for the state. Is that a deliberate affront to William Jennings Bryan?

A Malheur jury follows time-honored custom of acquitting the man who first got into action with his artillery.

With Papa Warren back in the Senate, Son-in-Law Pershing should be elevated to a Major-Generalship ere long.

Gaynor says he does not want to be re-elected Mayor of New York. That makes it unanimous.

Arizona's electoral messenger has shown up at Washington and the country is saved.

But why don't those English suffragettes try the beauty contest route?

The hoboes' convention bids fair to convene in the New Orleans bastile.

Even Chicago, that eats any old thing, rejects the frostkist oranges.

Seamless garments are the latest. They will never seem the same.

Distribution of the plum crop may yet plunge us into Civil War.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

Frances Slosson, who is in private life Mrs. Franklyn Underwood, is to have the principal role in a new play under John Cort. It is a drama entitled "The Iron Door" and was written by Allan Davis. It is now in rehearsal.

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Printers seem to disagree whether the name of Thompson Buchanan's newest comedy is "The Bridal Path" or "The Bridle Path." Edward J. Bowes, the Tacoma husband of Margaret Illington, is to produce it, and Ann Murdock is to have the principal role. Miss Murdock was in Portland last season as the runaway bride in "Excuse Me." By the way, "Excuse Me" is coming back to Portland pretty soon with Willis P. Sweatman again in his famous role as the negro porter.

* * *

Lee Willard, a thespian in small stock productions on the Pacific Coast, has taken unto himself a wife. She was a Miss Something De Forrest, a soubrette in musical comedy in California towns. Mr. and Mrs. Willard are in San Francisco on their honey tour.

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Victory Bateman, at one time a well-known leading woman, and in the last half dozen years identified with Pacific Coast stock, is en route to Los Angeles from New York. She is coming on contract with the Thanhouser people as a lead in their screen dramas. Miss Bateman formerly held the same position with the Thanhouser people in New York, but was shifted to the Los Angeles studio when their big New York studios were burned.

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Poli stock in Washington, D. C., opens next Monday with A. H. Van Buren, William Bernard's son-in-law and Dorothy's husband, as the leading man. Izetta Jewel is again to be leading woman with the Poli players, but was unable to secure her release from her Los Angeles engagement at Morosco's Burbank Theater in time to open in Washington for the first week. Hazel May, Izetta's sister, is with the Poli company.

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Ida Adair, who was a popular leading woman last season at the Baker Theater, has joined the Seattle stock. This week she is playing "Way Down East," which is to be followed by "Rose of the Rancho." Since leaving Portland Miss Adair has played stock engagements in Bridgeport, Conn., and in New Orleans. For five weeks she was in vaudeville in New York with Sidney Drew.

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The faculty of the University of California at Berkeley have made a request to David Belasco that he present Shylock for a single performance at their famous Greek Theater, which holds 8000 people, during his forthcoming visit to the Pacific Coast. This brings the attention of the public to the fact that Mr. Warfield has for the past three years been deeply engrossed in the study of the role of Shylock, and his definite aim to appear in the character may be looked forward to at any time. In case Mr. Warfield accepts the University of California's suggestion, it will lead to the interesting event of David Belasco making the trip to his old home in California purposely to produce "The Merchant of Venice," and in the event the proposition of the university is accepted, Mr. Belasco will send to California special actors to interpret the different roles. This, of course, will be a most extravagant proceeding, but as Mme. Bernhardt played in the Greek Theater to over $7000 at a single performance, and Sothern and Marlowe's receipts there were $5000 from one performance of "Macbeth," the undertaking may also have its commercial as well as artistic advantages. A performance of "The Merchant of Venice," with David Warfield as Shylock, and the entire production given under the eye of David Belasco, should be one of the most noteworthy and artistic exploits of recent dramatic history.

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John Livingston and his wife, who is known professionally as Claire Sinclair, are with the Bailey Mitchell stock in Seattle. Last Summer they were members of the Cathrine Countess stock at the Heilig.

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Among the press agents "in our midst" is Howard S. Gale, an Alabaman who always heralds worth while productions and this season brings "Broadway Jones." Last year he touted for "The Three Twins." E. H. Bachelder is another of the illustrious ones. He is ahead of "The Rose Maid," with Alice Lloyd in its principal role. Last season he brought us "The Spring Maid," and the year before "The Chocolate Soldier." Chester Rice, heralding the Rainey pictures, is here. In the list also are Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Towle. Mr. Towle is manager with the company of "Ben Hur." This is the 13th season he has been with this spectacular religious drama—ever since it was produced, in fact—for Ben Hur as a stage story is just 13 years old.

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William (Billy) Dills, always a favorite locally by reason of his long-time association with Baker stock, is now director of the Princess stock in Tacoma. Last week critics on one of the Tacoma papers paid Mr. Dills a mighty nice tribute in saying "there has been an attention to detail and finish to the performances that have put the Little Princess playhouse in even greater favor with its patrons than at any other time since its opening 51 weeks ago."

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Speaking of Tacoma stock, another Bakeronian—a young one, too—Neil McKinnon, is playing with the company.

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Jeannie Fletcher, who is called the Scottish nightingale of Pacific Coast musical comedy and who has appeared locally with Keating & Flood organizations, soon opens over the Sullivan & Considine circuit.

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Carleton Chase, who used to be a familiar figure on the Keating & Flood rialto, is with a musical comedy company in Nagasaki, Japan.

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Arrangements have been completed whereby Pantages vaudeville is to appear in six new towns in Canada. The annexation means an expenditure of approximately $750,000. The towns added to the Pantages circuit are Regina, Moose Jaw, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Swift Current and Prince Albert. These theaters have been playing road attractions, but now will be filled three days a week with consecutive Pantages bookings. The change will go into effect February 6, and will mean that in the future this circuit will consist of 22 instead of 16 weeks' time.

NEED OF HISTORICAL BUILDING

Oregon's Records and Relics Kept in Insufficient Quarters.

POMEROY, Wash., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Some weeks ago while in Portland I had occasion to go to the City Hall and the rooms of the Oregon Historical Society. As an old Oregonian of the 1852 immigration, I naturally feel a deep interest in Oregon and the aims and objects of the Oregon Historical Society.

At the rooms of the society I met George H. Himes, the man to whom the people of your city and state owe more than to any one else for the collecting and preserving of the historical data of the country and relics of the pioneer times. He has been an assiduous collector of everything pertaining to the history of Oregon and the lives of Oregon pioneers. This work of his has been patiently and persistently carried on by him for 27 years. Every scrap of history of the country, facts, incidents, narratives, newspaper and magazine articles, anything he could secure pertaining to the discovery, early settlement, the pioneers, the progress and development of the country has been collected and saved.

Mr. Himes foresaw, what many are now only beginning to see, the great value of these things for coming generations. A great writer has said: "A people who have not the pride to record their history will not long have the virtue to make history that is worth recording. And no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great."

There has been collected material for 7000 bound volumes of newspapers, each of one inch thickness. It is a matter which should appeal to the pride of every Oregonian that the first newspaper printed west of the Rocky Mountains was issued February 5, 1846, at Oregon City. What a wonderful transformation has taken place in the Oregon Country since that time!

The number of newspapers collected number about 150,000. Magazines and pamphlets over 12,000. Letters about 24,000. Photos and pictures of pioneers, of Indians, buildings and scenic views number nearly 6000. Brief biographical sketches of pioneers 15,000. Newspaper clippings relating to pioneer life, industrial and historic subjects, over 50,000. The society now has over 1000 relics of pioneer times, over 700 relics pertaining to Indians, and to articles illustrating pioneer life in almost every phase, which if preserved will be a constant source of pleasure and instruction for generations to come, reminders of those who lived and struggled amid the difficulties and hardships of early days.

That the people are becoming more interested in these things is shown by the fact that the rooms of the society have been visited by about 22,000 people during the past year. Its work is yet in its infancy, and it is bound to grow and increase in interest and value with the country's growth and development.

During all the years since the organization of the Oregon Historical Society, its work has been carried along in rented rooms which have become so crowded and inconvenient that the usefulness and efficiency have been greatly hindered. There has been a great lack of proper cases for books, shelves and drawers and filing cases for documents, papers, photos, pictures and thousands of other articles that should be filed away so as to be of ready and easy access. A large number of very interesting relics of the past have been exposed to air and dust so that their proper preservation is impossible under existing conditions.

Many of the things that have been so exposed should be in air-tight cases, where they would be free from dust and exposure to needless handling. There has been such a lack of room that no proper arrangement, labeling or filing was possible. The valuable collection in possession of the society could not possibly be arranged so as to make a proper display, or available for use.

I understand that now a compulsory change is being made from the City Hall to the Courthouse. These moves are exceedingly inconvenient and annoying, as well as expensive, and are liable to cause damage and loss of books, relics and archives. When we consider that there are nearly 100 tons of stuff to move, that this has to be all hauled in trucks and set up again in order, in other and differently arranged rooms, some idea can be formed of the immensity of the task. The work and worry of this moving process would convince anyone of the great need of a new and properly equipped building for the Oregon Historical Society.

As an old Oregonian I am deeply interested in everything relating to the pioneer history, development and advance of the great State of Oregon, and hope it may keep its place in the front in the march of progress. Oregon cannot afford to allow neighboring states to outstrip her in interest in matters pertaining to the preservation of the pioneer history of the country. Every Oregon pioneer, every citizen, every legislator and public man should feel a deep interest in this matter and should insist that a liberal appropriation of state funds be made to erect and equip a building for the State Historical Society such as will be a credit to the state and matter of pride to every citizen.

G. B. K.

VALUE OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Benefits to Young and Old Are Far-Reaching.

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—The Symphony Orchestra should be established as a permanent institution of the City of Portland, legitimately, ably and proudly supported by the whole people. The excellent results achieved by the combined efforts of those 50 or 60 skilled musicians, in interpreting so splendidly the best thoughts of the masters who have translated through the medium of inexplicable sound the voice of God to the soul, should cause every loyal citizen of Portland to become a booster for the permanent establishment of the institution.

It is manifestly pure love of their art which impels the members of the orchestra to give so generously of their time and skill in the rehearsals necessary to the rendition of their excellent programmes. Certainly the monetary remuneration to each member can be but a mere bagatelle after the many standing and incidental expenses have been covered by the revenues received. The action of the orchestra in inviting the school children to enjoy their rehearsals free of cost proved them to be artists who value their art above and beyond its commercial value. The beneficial results to young children, along lines of mental and moral growth, of attending weekly renditions of the marvelous productions of the great composers, would be incalculably great; therefore, the Symphony Orchestra is as necessary, in its sphere, to the education of the young, as are the manual training and trade schools. Such an institution would doubtless also prove to be as great a factor in the mental, moral and spiritual uplift of the adult population as the churches.

ELIZABETH KANE STEPHENS.

Give Him a Shock.

Harper's.

"Miss Dubbkins—Marietta—" stammered Wimpleton, nervously, "er—wow—will yuh—you mum—mum—marry me?"

"Don't you ever ask me a question like that again, Reginald Wimpleton," replied the girl, proudly.

"Bub—but whuh—why, Mum—Marietta?" stuttered Wimpleton. "I lul—lul—love you dud—devotedly and—"

"Because," the fair girl answered, firmly, "because it will not be necessary for you to subject yourself to the nervous strain. I will."

A Matter of Methods

By Dean Collins.

In Oregon today I note,
The while this ditty I am writing;
That women, if they care to, vote—
While those in England are still fighting.

Oh, muse, let's draw no parallel
'Twixt methods, this or that one bittin'.
But women here, it seems to me,
Sought votes not as they seek in Britain.

In their campaign I did not see,
Even when they took to campaign splelings,
A single action that could hurt
The fiercest "anti's" tender feelings.

Serene, I mailed my billets doux,
And went my way full calm and placid;
Because I knew they would not drench
The mailbox with sulphuric acid.

I did not fear to roam the street
In Portland, as I might in London—
No suffragist would club my skull
Until its suture joints came undone.

I saw no valiant ax-brigade
Assault the stores, with fury raving,
And smash wax models in the jaw,
And scatter plate glass o'er the paving.

I saw nobody, with a sledge,
Break off the flooding hydrant's stopper,
Nor heave a brickbat at the Mayor,
Nor sally forth and bite a copper.

In fact I saw no strong arm stuff;
And still, quite soon, it will be noted
That everybody said: "Why, sure!"
And then the women went and voted.

I will not draw a parallel
'Twixt methods, in this song I'm writing—
But women vote in Oregon;
In England they are still out fighting.

Portland, January 29, 1913.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of January 30, 1863.

Baltimore, Jan. 17.—The Washington Intelligencer publishes eight columns of intercepted rebel dispatches. The most important part of the correspondence relates to a movement of the French consuls at Galveston and Richmond, supposed to have originated in Paris, to induce Texas to secede from the Southern Confederacy and establish an independent government.

Cairo, Jan. 17.—The attack by gunboats on Arkansas Post continued from Friday evening, January 9, until Sunday afternoon, at which time the land forces stormed the works and the fort surrendered. We captured six regiments.

New York, Jan. 19.—The Tribune publishes a letter of one of its correspondents with the Army of the Potomac announcing that another forward movement was about to be made.

The noise made at the two cheap John establishments in this city is almost intolerable.

The City Marshal and his subordinates propose at once to break up the nest of savages living on the north side of the city, whose infernal orgies, varied by free fights, interfere seriously with the peace and dignity of the city.

Mr. Charles Schuck, of Fort Hoskins, writes the following account of the attack on the store of Messrs. Hodges & Schuck to the Corvallis Union: "On Monday evening, January 12, eight soldiers belonging to Fort Hoskins entered the store of Hodges & Schuck demanding some beer. But as the men had been there on the day before (Sunday) helping themselves and as they seemed to be under the influence of liquor, they were refused by me. Two of the men attacked me and succeeded in putting me in the cellar. Then one of them set the house on fire and left only after there was no possibility of saving the house and its contents. Mr. Myers, acting as a substitute for Mr. Hodges, who was held in awe by the miscreants, having a loaded pistol held at his head, let me out of the cellar and so saved my life."

Mothers Helped by Compensation Law.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—I appeal to the mothers of Oregon to become interested in the proposed workmen's compensation bill, House bill No. 27, now before the Legislature. It is a bill every mother in Oregon should become interested in and understand what it means to hundreds of mothers and little children when the father and bread winner is snatched by death at his daily labor in logging camps, sawmills and other industries (mind you, there are nearly 30,000 men engaged in the lumber industry alone in Oregon).

Who can conceive or realize but a mother, what a dreadful news it is when only a few hours before the father said good-bye to his dear ones and at noon the terrible news is brought to her that her husband is killed; what her thoughts must be when the little children cling to her; what she must suffer to know their father and provider is gone.

If this proposed compensation bill is passed it will provide for the mother and her little ones, speedily too, no delay, no cross-questioning in court, tearing the terrible wound in the poor mother's heart open, going over the awful scene of the accident; all that is done away with. This bill if passed will be a comfort to the family, as the sooner provision is made for the family, the better, instead of waiting for law suits and ten chances to one, get no provision at all.

Mothers, let us get busy and help to get this bill passed at this session; it is our duty to be interested in the cause, and think seriously what it means to a grief-stricken mother and little orphans. I am sure we will never regret the little effort we made.

MRS. LUCY MORAN.

Enforce Present Laws.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Law, good or bad, enforced or not enforced, seems to be the topic of the hour in Oregon just now. And to the mind of this writer, enforcement of law is of the most importance. In fact, strict enforcement of law is the only test of good government.

On reading over the bills presented to the present Legislature, we note a few that simply cover ground already covered by existing laws. In fact, we are deeply impressed with the need of more enlightenment as to existing laws, and from experience we know that it is not an easy matter to get at existing laws.

Some provision should be made whereby the voters can get access to the revised code easier. Not many men or women have the code personally, and only one copy is to be found in the Public Library, and that in the reference room.

One measure presented to the present session is to prohibit profanity. That is well; but why not first enforce the present law? We have a good one. If the existing law seems weak at any point, strengthen it, but at all events enforce it.

L. F. ADDITON.

Carnegie Hero Fund.

KINGSLEY, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish information concerning the Carnegie hero fund—the location and name of officers if any.

F. H. Wilmot, Oliver building, Pittsburgh, Pa., is secretary and manager of the fund. Applications should be addressed to him.