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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1913.

UNDERWOOD'S TARIFF POLICY.

The Democratic tariff-framers have chosen to observe one plank of the Baltimore platform and practically to cast the other into the discard. That platform declares that revenue should be the sole purpose of tariff duties, but it also says:

> We favor the ultimate attainment of the principle we advocate by legislation that will not injure or destroy legitimate industry.

The ways and means committee has discovered that it cannot raise revenue from the tariff on certain commodities without encouraging the importation of those commodities. The more it encourages imports by tariff reductions within certain limitations the more revenue it will raise, but the more it will injure American industry. That policy can only be reconciled with the Baltimore platform by maintaining that the injured industries are not legitimate. Underwood proposes to scale down the wool, cotton, sugar, shoe and chemical duties until they make foreign competition possible; in some cases down to nothing—to the point where they would yield no revenue.

In defense of this policy he shifts his ground from one argument to another. Where the findings of Taft's Tariff Board fit the case he accepts them; where a chance remark of a manufacturer can be cited in support of his purpose he quotes it. Thus a statement of a textile company, which manufactures a specialty made nowhere else in the world and therefore without competition, that it needs no protection is quoted as proof that the whole cotton industry can stand unrestricted foreign competition. The Tariff Board's finding that the American cost of certain processes in cotton manufacture is less than the foreign is quoted as an argument against high duties on the better grades of goods. Free boots and shoes are offered as a boon to the consumer, although free hides have not reduced prices, although boots and shoes are already on a keenly competitive basis, and although there is no suspicion of a trust in the industry.

The Underwood tariff bills will have plain sailing in the House, but they will strike a snag in the Senate. The Southern cotton manufacturers, who make chiefly cheap goods, have made common cause with their Northern brethren, whose product is mostly of the higher grades. They may cause the North Carolina and Georgia Senators to break away from the Democratic party and create a rift in the solid South. The Louisiana Senators will stand out against free sugar and may be joined by the new Democratic Senators from such beetgrowing states as Colorado and Kansas. Already a coalition has been formed between protectionist Republicans and five protectionist Democrats to prevent the passage of any free list bill. By threatening to vote for free sugar unless all free list bills are killed, the Republicans will coerce the Louisiana Democrats into using their powerful influence against any free list bills.

The Democratic majority in the House is pledged to a tariff which will admit competition. That tariff cannot pass the Senate without overcoming the opposition of those Democrats who are determined to prevent its passage. They bid fair to have the whip hand.

PALESTINE AND THE JEWS.

The curtailment of the Turks' power in consequence of their defeats in the Balkan war brings forward the situation of the Jews in Palestine. This province is under Turkish dominion and has been as badly governed as the rest of that unhappy empire. The greater portion of it lies uncultivated not because the land is sterile, but because the peasants are robbed of their crops. In spite of these drawbacks to prosperity about 100,000 Jews have settled in Palestine under the impetus of the Zionist movement and many more would go there to live if their presence were suffered by the Turks.

But the latter fear that the Jews will fill the province and ultimately fight for their independence if they had free entrance. So none are admitted now except for a limited period. All who enter Palestine must go away again within six months. Of course this puts a stop to the Zionist migration which, to many Jews, embodies the hope of their race. Others do not care so much about it, but all things considered it is of immense importance not only to the Jews, but also to the rest of the world.

The presence of a civilized and actively intelligent population in Palestine would make that really favored region highly productive and would materially further the colonization schemes which Germany has been hatching, since it would make food cheap in Asia Minor. It is believed on grounds like this that when the Balkan difficulty is finally settled the powers will intervene to secure to the Jews the right to settle freely in Palestine under conditions which will permit them to prosper.

This amounts to saying that the province will be freed from Turkish rule. The Turk has always been incompatible with prosperity and there is no reason to expect that misfortune will alter his nature. Palestine belongs to the Jews historically. They have a still better title to it perhaps in the sentiment of the world. They never have had a country since Titus destroyed their capital and dispersed them over the face of the earth. Mankind owes them a debt which might be gracefully paid by giving them back Palestine with Jerusalem for their seat of government.

It is not easy to understand how an expedition on horseback from New York to San Francisco can promote the cause of woman suffrage, but it might do so in some occult way. At any rate certain enthusiastic sisters are going to try it. The plan is to start as soon as the roads are good and push on to the Coast, scattering tracts by the way. It will be an expensive way to distribute literature. The mails would be cheaper. But the scheme is adventurously romantic and the spectacle of the fair missionaries may win converts whom mere argument could not touch.

PLURALITY OR MAJORITY?

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(To the Editor.)—I observe that The Oregonian has taken occasion to comment on the holdups over Senatorial elections in the various states where the old constitutional method is still in force and to say that the new fashion of direct election has proved its worth in bringing quick results and in removing any Senatorial contest from consideration or controversy in any Legislature. All well enough; but will The Oregonian say that the plurality scheme of popular election by the people is better than the majority method by a Legislature? DOUBTER.

The Oregonian will say that it has long been an advocate of direct election of United States Senators. Aside from the scandal and corruption that have too often attended Senatorial elections, Senatorial contests impede the course of legislation, lead to logrolling and traffic over all sorts of measures, and to harmful feuds and demoralizing factional controversies. We are well along toward direct election of Senators, now, and such devices as Statement No. 1 will cease to be an issue.

We suppose that our doubtful friend means to say that if a Legislature were to be able to elect by a plurality and not by a majority, there would be no deadlocks. Probably not. But is it desirable or undesirable that a Legislature or a people elect by a plurality? It is true enough that a plurality nominates under the popular system; and it is true enough that a plurality frequently elects; it is true enough that if a majority of a popular vote were required, the legislative hold-ups would be trifling affairs compared with the popular deadlocks. But all other public officers are, or may be, elected by pluralities. Why make an exception of United States Senators?

It is too late to change the legislative method so as to harmonize with the popular method. Undoubtedly if a Legislature could elect by a plurality, as the people do, there would be no hold-ups or deadlocks; but the old barter and sale of bills, the demoralization of legislation, the diversion of legislative interest into improper channels and the taint of secret traffic or outright corruption would all be there; and it is well that a Legislature be left strictly to its legislative duties.

AT LAST, THE PERFECT JUROR.

At first glance it appears that an ideal juror, as measured by the searching American system of criminal procedure, has been found in Los Angeles County in the person of Dairyman Dresbach. Mr. Dresbach lives only twenty miles from Los Angeles at Artesia, but until summoned in the Darrow trial had never heard of Darrow or of the McNamaras. Mr. Dresbach reads only a dairy magazine, but his wife, who scans the newspapers, tells him about the murders and automobile accidents.

Mr. Darrow, not being charged with murder or involved in an automobile accident and not known as the inventor of a milking machine, of course escaped the attention of the intelligent and well-informed talesman. How the McNamaras escaped is more difficult of conjecture. But no doubt it may be accounted for in the proverbial inconsistency of the sex of his daily informant. At all events, the discovery of Mr. Dresbach is gratifying. The law of proportion indicates clearly that there are at least eleven of his kind in Los Angeles County, for it required the summoning of only 400 veniremen to find him.

While we have remarked that the venireman appears to be an ideal juror, it will occur at once to all who are well informed that the mere fact that he never had heard of the defendant does not qualify him for duty in this important case. Perhaps he belongs to the same secret society as the cousin of the wife of the District Attorney. Or perhaps he has a latent suspicion that all lawyers ought to be in jail. Or it may be that his partiality for murder and accident news indicates a destructive temperament which would tend to influence his verdict. There are a number of elements that our admirable system takes into account in the selecting of twelve peers of the man on trial.

But these are mere possibilities. Such a find among only 400 men demonstrates the power of stern elimination to uncover in any community the human blanks deemed necessary to the safe conduct of important criminal trials. It ought to be sufficient answer to those critics who unthinkingly condemn the American criminal code of procedure. For those critics who are solicitous for the unimportant or penniless defendant there remains the reply that one Dresbach and eleven of his cows would no doubt fill the bill just as well.

THE UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

No more worthy cause could be forwarded by the Legislature than that of the medical department of the University of Oregon, which makes a modest request for an appropriation of $30,000 a year. It is proposed to expend this money only in the employment of full-time professors and in the installation and equipment of laboratories.

This medical school has the merit of being the only one of its kind in the four states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and therefore of supplying medical education to those who cannot afford to attend the distant colleges in the East. As the result of a rigid inspection by the Carnegie foundation for the advancement of medical education of nearly all medical colleges in the United States, the standard of the school at Portland has been raised so high that it is now rated in class A by the council of education of the American Medical Association. The State of Washington has resolved that its university shall leave the field of medical education to the State of Oregon so long as this state maintains a class A institution. The position of this school is therefore secure as the only one in its field.

The necessity of a medical school maintaining so high a standard in this territory is obvious. A steadily recruited body of well-trained physicians is recognized by all intelligent people as essential to the public health and to sanitation in general. The medical department supplies this need admirably and is alone in its field. It therefore should have adequate support of the state.

There was a time, in the days of beautiful chirography, when it was perfectly good form for a person to write his own calling cards. Now they must be engraved. Printing will not do because it is cheap and everything connected with good society must be as expensive as possible. Cards printed by an expert are quite as artistic as the engraved ones, but they are banned. Those humble hangers on of good society, milliners, haberdashers and the like, have taken to engraving their advertisements lately. It gives an elite appearance which the printer cannot rival.

LOGIC BRINGS STEAMSHIP LINES.

The logic of the situation is bringing the Royal Mail Steam Packet line to Portland, just as it brought the Hamburg-American line. All we need to do in order to acquire steamship lines is to show the tonnage, developed and immediately capable of being developed, the safe, navigable channel to the sea and the facilities for quick and economical handling of ships in the harbor. These essentials assured, the steamships will come of their own accord without subsidies or other artificial inducements.

A subsidized steamship line is but a poor thing at best—like a bottle-fed baby. If we wish to develop a healthy ocean commerce, we must feed the carriers the natural mother's milk of profitable traffic. A subsidy-fed line is too much like a protection-fed industry, confessing by its acceptance of the subsidy that it is unable to stand alone. It is also a direct reflection on the port which pays the subsidy, for it advertises to other steamship lines that the volume of traffic is insufficient to support a line without this unnatural stimulus. For this reason it operates to warn away other lines which might come of their own volition without such an inducement.

The coming of the unsubsidized Royal Mail as well as the Hamburg-American line is an advertisement that there is business enough in sight to justify the profitable operation of both lines. That the confidence of these two great corporations may be justified by their experience it is essential that our merchants give them all the business possible. The spectacle of steamers coming in and going out regularly with full cargoes will attract other lines until Portland will become what its unrivaled position fits it to be—one of the great ports of the world.

"BEN HUR."

The first thing that strikes and charms the spectator at a performance of "Ben Hur" is the marvelous beauty of the spectacle. Nothing could be more lovely than the gradual appearance of the Star of Bethlehem in the sky as the sages gaze eastward from the silent desert. Its long rays, lighting up the whole world at the fullness of their splendor, are bright with promise. Their message is the hope of redemption from the overshadowing horror of Roman rule which typifies the deeper horror of sin. Jerusalem, set like a gem in the desolate oriental landscape, with its tall stone houses and roof gardens, looks on the stage much as Josephus must have known it. One sees the flinty pavements over which the weary feet of the Savior trod the way to Calvary and the harsh outlines of the bare houses are no more pitiless than the hearts of the political clique that condemned him to death. The lake on whose moonlit waters the Egyptian beauty tempted Ben Hur woos with the mysterious shadows of its palm trees, and the long line of light across the surface seems to lead to some magic land where life is happiness and happiness eternal. The Vale of Hinnom is a vast cleft between towering peaks of barren rock. The tombs where the lepers live are as hideous as their disease. Ben Hur wanders among the frightful precipices seeking his lost mother and sister like a soul through the wilderness of hell.

But the art of the scene maker comes to a climax in the chariot race. No reader of "Ben Hur" ever passed the pages which contain the description of the Jew's triumph and the Roman villain's downfall without thrills of fascinated horror. It is all shown on the stage as real as life. Messala in the background urges forward his steeds with whip and shouts, standing in his crimson colors as the type of Roman power and Roman arrogance. Ben Hur in the foreground chants the song of the free desert to his coursers and accelerates their speed by memories of the palm groves to which they will return when they have won the race. He is the victor and Messala not only loses the fortune he has wagered but barely comes off with his life. Ben Hur's chariot engages his wheel at the critical moment and he is hurled into the dust of the arena. Of course the author meant this to typify the downfall of Rome before the Galilean.

But all this is external. The spectator is enchanted to witness it, but his thoughts are elsewhere, dwelling with two great ideas which lie at the heart of the book and the play. One of them is the all-embracing dominion of Rome with its cynical contempt for human rights, its grinding weight of military power and its lust for gold. Rome was the universal robber of the human race in the reign of Tiberius when the Star appeared in the East. There was no power on earth that could withstand her armies, no refuge but the depths of the sandy deserts to which a fugitive could escape from her cruel talons and no recess dark enough to hide a private fortune from her greedy clutch. Simonides brings this out time and again as he tells one and another how they must not dream of fighting for safety, but must buy it from the omnipotent pirate.

Rome had crushed the intelligence of the world and enslaved its spirit. There was scarcely such a thing as free labor in existence anywhere. The sheiks of the desert still defied the imperial city from their inaccessible fastnesses, but when they approached the walled towns those wild wanderers were compelled to bow before the eagles and the legions. Roman military power coiled like a serpent around the earth and feasted upon its riches as the serpent gnaws the vitals of its prey. In the heart of the imperial city there was no such feeling as pity. Justice was but another name for bribery. Law meant the will of the Caesar and his minions. God had vanished from the heavens and a beastly crew of degraded demons had usurped his throne. Nowhere but in Palestine was there a vestige of orderly liberty and even in that last refuge of human hope a sordid clique of politicians had traded their heritage to Rome for a share in the plunder of the world.

The other great idea is that of the coming redemption. From the ages Israel had expected a Messiah. He was to come in power and great glory. With healing in his wings for the woes of the human race he was to appear in the east leading the armies of the angels and put Israel's foes under his feet. The Jews never had submitted in their hearts to Rome because, unlike every other nation in the world, they knew there was a power superior to the legions and they believed it was on their side. Ultimately the Messiah would come and turn his omnipotence against the scarlet Babylon drunken with the riches of the earth. There was a rumor afloat that the Messiah had appeared. Strange stories had strayed out of Galilee. A carpenter's son had soothed Ben Hur with a touch and a whispered blessing when he was dragged past to the galleys. Blind men had been restored to sight. Nay, men born blind had been made whole. More marvelous still, leprosy, the dread curse of antiquity, had been cured and the voice of the healer had penetrated the caves of death and called back Lazarus to his sisters. The wonder-worker must be the Messiah, but such a Messiah! Where were the militant hosts of angels? Where the armies that were to break the power of mighty Rome? The Messiah had come but he was preaching peace, longsuffering and brotherly love. He spoke as if the chains Rome had riveted on the limbs of mankind were but a trifle and the only thing of consequence an invisible kingdom within the soul.

And this was the outcome of the millennial hope. All Palestine sighed with disappointment, all but a chosen few who knew that ideas are more potent than gold and legions. The Messiah did conquer Rome, but it was only after centuries of patient attack that the imperial power disintegrated and humanity again began to live under the protection of the truth that makes men free.

No doubt the most thoroughly convincing historical pageant ever exhibited in the United States is the Pendleton Round-Up. Perhaps in rivalry with that most delightful of spectacles Denver is preparing something of the same nature under the inspiring leadership of Colonel William F. Cody, whose "Wild West" show is perhaps the great original of all such exhibitions. There is to be a reproduction of the romantic and thrilling features of cowboy and pioneer life and at the same time a reunion of all that time has spared of the old settlers, the Indians and the paraphernalia of the trail. If it is well done it will be the sight of a lifetime.

If ever there was need of the ministrations of the Red Cross Society, it is in the Balkan war, which now seems about to be resumed. The Turks are notoriously callous about the care of the wounded and the little nations which are fighting Turkey have so taxed their resources in equipping themselves for the actual fighting that they have probably done little to care for the wounded, the sick or the sanitation of their camps. The Balkan states doubtless will be prompted to fall in line with the most enlightened nations in these respects after the struggle is ended, especially after the lesson the present war will have taught them.

A current report from New York seems to show that even society women are not so steeped in trespasses and sins as to be beyond redemption. A number of the foremost among the fashionable dames of the metropolis have signed a pledge never again to wear heron aigrettes or bird of paradise plumes. The aigrettes are obtained at the cost of starving the young herons, since the mother bird must be shot in the nesting season to obtain them. The use of bird of paradise plumes has caused the species to become almost extinct. It seems almost time for fashion to relax its demands a little.

If France should have occasion to go to war she would find some of her leading politicians as embarrassing as the enemy. They have declared for peace at any cost and advise the most astonishing measures to make war impossible. Their favorite recourse for the moment is the general strike. The plan is to stop all work throughout the country the moment the army begins to march. This is patriotism with a vengeance. It would not take a great deal of it to blot France off the map with the world in its present state.

The typical telephone girl is all business. Note the operator in New York who saw a man's body alight from a drop of eighteen stories and calmly called up the wagon. A man could not do that.

The Marconi Wireless people discriminate against women operators as not dependable in time of stress. Yet it is in such crises that woman has made good since Creation.

The short and ugly word may be good English, as Judge Mack says, but its use provokes disturbance of the peace and should be discouraged. It is a fighting word.

Representative Lawrence, of Multnomah, would raise the scale to $10 a day for a 60-day session. Representative Lawrence knows a good thing when he sees it.

After plenty of time for rest and recuperation, the Allies will resume carving Turkey next Monday. This time they probably will finish by picking the bones.

Governor West now says it is time to quit the legislative fight and get to work. He is a wise man who knows when he has had enough.

A religious fanatic dressed in pure white put the hobo convention to flight. Pure white is not part of the hobo color scheme.

The houn' dawg will figure in the inaugural parade, but not so joyously as if Champ were the principal figure.

If the Filipinos are allowed to govern themselves, no doubt they will set out with Mexico as their ideal.

The life record of Captain Blakely would make a splendid exhibit of the merits of Oregon's climate.

Make short work with a long sentence for the "long and short" highwaymen.

There is often more legislative honor gained in killing a bill than in passing one.

British suffragettes are not without hope while labor takes up their cause.

Glavis now shrinks from that bright light which beats upon a muckraker.

The hobo convention struggles vainly against the stigma "freak."

IMPROVING LAW-MAKING SYSTEM

Writer Would Have Initiated Bills Go First to Legislature.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—The problem of political philosophy presents various aspects, the question of devising a suitable legislative apparatus being one of them. Notwithstanding the fact that from the earliest times innumerable controversies have been waged concerning the excellence of this or that legislative apparatus, the question is not quite settled as yet. This, at least, ought to be apparent to many of the voters of this state. The initiative and referendum are constantly referred to as a supplement to our representative form of government, to be used whenever the people desire to obtain something the Legislature does not give them or to reject that which the latter intends to impose upon them. In most instances, it is difficult to divine, before the votes are counted, what the people really desire or oppose. For this reason the use of the initiative ought not to be restricted, nor that of the referendum, barring a few exceptions, but the initiative should be made an integrant part of our representative government.

The pure idea of democracy is defined as the government of the whole people by the whole people, equally represented. In a pure representative democracy, every or any section should be represented. Unless such is the case, it cannot be said that there exists an equal government, but a government of inequality, where contrary to the principle of democracy, the fair and equal influence in the representation has been denied to one or more parts of the whole. It is an admitted fact that the American democracies are samples of this faulty pattern. How can we improve it? Here I would make use of the initiative. An initiative measure, after having received the required number of signatures of registered voters, should be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 60 or 90 days prior to the opening of a legislative session, there and at that session to be acted upon, either rejected or adopted in its original or amended form; allowing, for a limited time, the privilege of the floor to one of the prime movers of each measure when it is up for consideration.

When the Legislature sees fit to reject such a measure or adopt it in an amended form, then, and not till then, should the proposers have a right to demand that the same be placed, in its original form, upon the ballot at the next state election. It must not be forgotten that this complementary part, the initiative, is for the benefit of the minority. For in our state as well as elsewhere, laws are the result of the labors of the few and not of the many. But this giving to minorities of more than an equal influence in our legislative affairs should not entitle them to the opportunity to have their measures enacted without obtaining the approval of something like a majority of the people. However, this is allowed them under our state constitution. This glaring defect ought to be remedied.

Where measures and candidates are voted upon at the same election, an initiative measure should not become the law unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the electors voting on such a measure. To bring about this change the present Legislature should have the foresight and the courage to take the initiative steps. It would be safe, sane, sound and constructive legislation and not detrimental to a single interest entitled to any consideration. INNE RUS,
380 Jefferson street.

WRITER SNEEZES AT PARCEL POST

Costs More to Send Can of Pepper by Mail Than It Did Before.

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(To the Editor.)—As I was saying, the parcel post doesn't seem to facilitate matters to any great extent when it comes to pruning the "high cost of living."

Just by way of getting on speaking terms with the new system I sent a two-ounce tin of pepper to a man at Pocatello, Idaho, which is just up here a ways, and the little experience cost me 8 cents coin and some little time. The pepper cost 10 cents. You see the tin and wrapper made the weight a little mite more than two ounces, and so they charged pound rates. I made a mistake in not sending a pound of pepper, but even at that rate I don't see how parcel post is going to reduce the cost of pepper very much.

Prior to the adoption of the parcel system I sent two ounces of pepper to San Francisco for 4 cents, but they tell me it was a losing game, and they now forbid me that rate. Yet there are folks who say, "The consumer should get acquainted with a good, square farmer and employ the parcel post." Well, if it costs 8 cents to send two ounces of pepper, what would it cost to send a leg o' lamb?

And this reminds me that we now have cars that stop at the even-numbered streets coming out and at the odd-numbered streets going in, the same dandy little 12-minute headway, the same old crowd of elongated strap-hangers holding on for dear life, and the same good will of the Eastern stockholders.

Therefore, it is now recalled that the railway company "bowed to the will of the people" in this matter of making fewer stops and that the hydra-headed monsters, known as express companies, didn't go out of business when we instituted the parcel post. All of which goes to show that we love the bunko stuff, and that where there used to be a "sucker born every minute," the average is now higher on account of the frequent advent of twins.
ROBERT G. DUNCAN,
549 East Forty-ninth street North.

PATRON CRITICISES WATER OFFICE

Flow Frequently Shut Off Without Notice Is Charge.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Just a few words regarding the beautiful habit of the water office of turning off water in the residence districts without notice.

People are constantly howling about the iniquities of the big corporations, but no corporation would ever have the nerve to keep on putting one over on the suffering public, as this municipally-owned "public servant" does.

But in my district (Piedmont) we frequently find our water turned off for periods ranging from one to three hours without warning, and often on wash days. (This would be a fine thing in a case where a house would contain some person very ill).

This morning at 8 o'clock the water was suddenly turned off. At 8:30 I rang up our local water office and asked as to the reason why we had not been notified in advance. I was informed in return that when the water was to be closed off for a short period they had no time to send men around to notify families, but was assured that in a "short time" the water would be on. I am writing this at 3 o'clock and it is off yet. Apparently the motto of the office is "anything to antagonize the public." They certainly have got me going, and I believe something should be done to put a crimp in their nerve. I would like to hear from others on this subject and would be very glad to give time and money to start the ball rolling against this "public nuisance." MARVIN C. WHITE.

A Wise Investor.

Judge.

"This is an excellent picture of you," said Cumso, examining a photograph of Howso. "Have you ever been done in oil?"

"Not on your life!" replied Howso. "I always steer clear of curb-mark t securities."

THE CASE OF GOOSE VS. BEAVER

Mr. Sebring Applies Intelligence Test in the "Webfoot" Issue.

WINCHESTER, Or., Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—One of the objections which George H. Himes offers to the term "Webfoot" when applied to the state is that it is suggestive of a goose, and that the goose being an emblem of stupidity, the name is a reflection on the industry and intelligence of the people of Oregon.

On the other hand, Mr. Himes would substitute the name "Beaver," because, among other things, that animal exhibits great industry and intelligence in constructing dams across streams.

Now, right here Mr. Himes has opened up a subject to which there are plainly two sides. Let us consider, first, that first law of nature, self-preservation. I have lived in the state when both geese and beaver were quite numerous; have tramped from daylight till dark hunting geese, without getting nearer to a flock than twice the distance that my gun would carry, simply because the birds were too wary to alight near anything behind which I could hide; and in the light of that experience, whenever I hear the remark "as stupid as a goose," I at once conclude that the one making it doesn't know half as much about a goose as the goose knows about a good many things, one of which is, that the bird knows as much as any beaver that ever built a dam about taking care of No. 1.

The beaver is sharp of sight, sharp of scent and sharp of hearing, while the goose, although fully as keen in all its senses as the beaver, generally keeps too far from the proximity of an enemy to render the last two effective.

I have caught many a beaver in traps, besides having had many failures. I found that if I left any scent about the vicinity of the trap, very often the animal would forsake the place entirely; also if there was so much as a link of the trap chain exposed it was "all off."

Comparing the constructive intelligence, or, as some would term it, the ingenuity of the two, I will have to admit that the goose cannot build a beaver dam; neither can the beaver build a goose's nest, any more than man, with his boasted knowledge, could build either, which places them on a level on that score.

As to the industry of the beaver, on which Mr. Himes relies so strongly to bolster our reputation, if he will observe carefully he will find it no more than commensurate with the animal's physical requirements, very much as a man builds his house.

But there is this difference in the man and the animal: for whereas a man builds according as his fancy dictates, the animal builds according to a fixed plan from which it cannot vary, a plan with which it had nothing to do in originating, and which is but a feeble manifestation of that ever-present, all-pervading intelligence that rules the universe. All of the so-called intelligence of the beaver is but a borrowed intelligence, useful for the time being, to be cast aside when it has served its immediate ends.

After the beaver has completed the act is it conscious of having builded a dam? We are led to suppose that there is no mental faculty without a purpose. If this is the case, why should the animal remember, for no matter how many dams it may construct, it cannot profit by past experience the least degree? And it would seem, therefore, that the faculty of memory would be entirely useless.
F. M. SEBRING.

EFFECT OF MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Correspondent Fears It Would Deprive Less Competent of Employment.

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(To the Editor.)—I am surprised that in all that has been said regarding the minimum wage measure, as proposed by the Consumers' League, and in the arguments put forth in its favor, there has been no mention of many phases of the proposed legislation as adversely affecting the poor working girl.

Assuming that the report of Miss Gleason, as published in The Oregonian, is true, that a large proportion of those employed in the factories, department stores and laundries are working for less than a "living wage," what remedy will this proposed bill afford? Will it guarantee any wage for a class of workers who are inefficient, incompetent, and inexperienced? And yet every factory, department store and laundry has many such girls in its employ—girls who are helping at least to support themselves, where they would only be a burden to their families, or to society in general, should they be thrown out of employment entirely, as would be the case should any minumum wage be established by law.

What will become of the incompetent girls who are now employed at a wage fully commensurate with their worth? Will they be taken to a certain "institution" here in our city to compete with our employes, and be subsidized by the state as is the case at the present time?

If, as Miss Gleason states, "conditions are unsanitary" in the factories of Portland, then our health officers are to blame for such conditions, and should be brought to task for such dereliction of duty.

Our State Labor Commissioner is a frequent visitor in the factories, laundries and department stores, and it is plainly a part of his duties as a state officer to see that such establishments are properly equipped, but it is plainly not a part of his duty to suggest any sum, as a minimum wage, as he assumed to do in a report which he recently made. There are a number of factories in Portland and in other localities in Oregon which will be seriously handicapped, if not put out of business entirely, should this proposed measure become a law. All factories coming into competition with other states or with foreign competition will feel the effects of such unjust legislation.

While local institutions, such as laundries and department stores, might add to the cost of their product to cover extra cost of production, there are many factories which are in competition with the East, or with foreign labor conditions, which would simply face ruin if they were confronted with such conditions as the Consumers' League would impose upon them, while the women employes would be "out of a job."

Should this proposed measure be passed providing for the appointment of a commission to take into consideration the wants of the employe, as well as the interests of the employer, and both the employer and the employe be represented on such commission, there will be little opposition, but if any attempt to establish a definite amount, weekly, hourly or daily, is made, it will work a great hardship on those who depend upon their labor as a means of support, for it will simply throw hundreds of deserving women out of employment. R. C. WARINNER.

Nationality of Actors.

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(To the Editor.)—What nationality are Sarah Bernhardt and David Warfield? Has either one any Jewish blood? M. COHN.

Sarah Bernhardt was born in Paris of French and Dutch parents. Her mother was of Jewish extraction, but her father was not. David Warfield was born in San Francisco and is of Jewish descent.

A Possible Explanation.

Harper's.

"I never could undertsand why people dock their horses' tails," said Dubbleigh.

"High cost of living," said Jorrocks. "Got to dock something, these times."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of January 31, 1863.

The books of the Oregon City Woolen Mills are now open at Oregon City and stock is being rapidly taken. The capital stock is $75,000, which is enough to start the enterprise with every needed element of success. Captain D. P. Thompson will attend to soliciting stock subscriptions in the counties adjoining Clackamas.

Olympia, Jan. 26.—The bill for the removal of the seat of government to Vancouver was killed in the House on Saturday.

New York, Jan. 19.—News from Havana says the Alabama was off that port on the 5th.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The House committee on territories has agreed to the admission of Nevada, Colorado and Nebraska into the Union as states.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The Senate today confirmed the nomination of Harrington of Oregon as superintendent of Indian affairs in that state.

From this time forward the subscription for The Daily Oregonian will be 37½ cents a week. We are compelled to advance our rates by the large and increasing price of printing paper.

The suit of William Grooms, City Marshal, against the City of Portland for certain fees for services rendered the city, making a total of $57, was decided yesterday in the Recorder's court. The Recorder gave judgment in favor of Grooms for $36.

DIGNIFIED NAME IS DESIRABLE.

"Diversity State" Suggested in Lieu of "Beaver" or "Webfoot."

AMITY, Or., Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—If the columns of The Oregonian are still open to those who wish to discuss the question as to the most appropriate nickname for Oregon and the Harriman electric system, I would like briefly to state what I think upon the subject.

If the name to be adopted is of any great importance I am in favor of adopting a name that actually signifies that which is a reality. As for the name "Webfoot" or "Beaver," I dissent to either. The word "Webfoot" as an appellation for Oregon was only intended as a burlesque; nevertheless it might have a tendency to be injuriously misleading. To adopt the name "Beaver" would also be misleading. However, at an earlier date than this, when the beaver was plentiful in our state, the name at that time might have been recognizable. But at this time, when that rodent has become so nearly extinct in this state, in my judgment, to adopt its name would be exceedingly unfitting.

The word that I will suggest for Oregon's nickname will no doubt find dissenters also. But if the name wanted is important, and the most appropriate one desired, I think the word which I will suggest will be the one sought for. I suggest that the word "Diversity" be adopted. We may very fittingly compare Oregon to a great variety storehouse, with her shelves filled to their utmost capacity with the essentials for man's use. Oregon affords the greatest variety of advantages and benefits to her inhabitants of any state in the Union.

Oregon possesses a diversity of climates, soil and productions. There is Eastern Oregon, the famous Hood River Valley, the great Willamette Valley, the renowned Rogue River and Umpqua Valleys and the country lying west of the Coast Range of Mountains. Each of those localities possesses its own peculiar climate and soil.

Thus, taking Oregon's variety of soil and climate in the aggregate, she is adapted to general farming, stockraising, dairying, poultry-raising—a state of flowers, hence bee culture, and is unsurpassed for the production of a great variety of fruits and garden vegetables.

Oregon has quite extensive fisheries, and there are also a great variety of forest trees, of which there is being manufactured daily hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber. There are valuable coal fields in some parts of the state, and also deposits of a great variety of other minerals.

I believe that Oregon is capable of conferring a greater diversity of favors upon her people than any other state. While the Oregon people are contemplating a nickname for their state let it be one that will be dignifying—a name that will within itself stand out as an advertisement of the many favors which Oregon will supply to her people.
WILLIAM S. SCHWARTZ.

Weight of Milk.

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(To the Editor.)—Please state the standard weight of one gallon of milk. DAIRYMAN.

A gallon of milk weighs 8.61 pounds at a temperature of 69 degrees.

A New Style In Babies

It has been set by Iowa and adopted in Oregon. It provides that a child shall be judged by physical perfection rather than by doll-like beauty. The subject is given a delightful page, illustrated by photographs, in The Sunday Oregonian.

The Perfect Woman—The press dispatches have had much to say lately of Miss Scheel, Cornell's perfect woman. An illustrated half page goes into the subject in detail.

Poor Lo!—They are now steering the red man through bankruptcy in order to protect him from a horde of white sharpers. Full page in colors.

Aerial Bicycling—It is to be the great sport of the future. An exceptional letter from The Oregonian's Paris correspondent.

Isle of Broken Hearts—An account of the trouble-burdened people who come and go at Ellis Island. Written by a former immigration inspector.

Underworld Tricks—Another page by Jack Rose on the tricks and traps which beset the unwary.

The Suffragist Invasion—The advent of the suffragists in Washington is to rival the inaugural parade itself if present plans do not miscarry.

Gibson Pictures—Another half page in the series of pen-and-ink drawings that made Gibson famous.

Two short stories, **three pages for women**, four pages of color comics and many other features.

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