The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1913.

REMEDIES FOR THE MEAT FAMINE.

The Democratic plan of putting meat on the free list will receive a considerable boost from the statement of President Leonard, of the Stockyards Company of Chicago, that we are facing a meat famine in this country. The range is being fenced and farmed, and cattle-raising on the farm has not yet reached the point where it can supply enough meat to take the place of the range. While we are building up the cattle industry on new lines, we must either eat less meat or buy our supply abroad.

Our best foreign sources of supply are Argentina for beef and mutton, Australia and New Zealand for mutton. Canada can help, but it cannot provide nearly enough. The beef trust has gained such a hold in Argentina that it may be able to restrict the supply from that quarter. We must, therefore, look to Australia for the cargoes of mutton which will relieve the famine and save us from resort to horse and dog meat, which is Germany's plight.

There is one other way of escape from exorbitant butcher bills—to eat less meat. Doctors tell us that we eat too much meat and too few fresh vegetables, fruits, fish and coarse flours. These articles are more trouble to cook, but they will improve the health and cut down both the butchers' and doctors' bills.

REPUBLICANS GETTING TOGETHER.

As Nicholas Murray Butler, from one wing, and Senator Borah, from the other wing of the Republican party, have declared in favor of a reorganization convention this year, so Senator Root's adherence to the plan from the conservative side is now matched by that of Senator Cummins, from the Progressive. Both wings and all shades of opinion in the party are getting in the mood for a grand Republican revival, at which all shall confess the faith which all hold in common—a revival similar to those in which Christians of many denominations join.

Free from the embarrassing rivalries of a nominating convention, this gathering could get down to first principles in revising the rules of representation, which afforded the pretext for the split in 1912. Fresh from the people and disciplined by defeat, the convention could adopt a re-definition of Republican principles as applied to living issues. The platform of 1912 is too much associated in men's minds with one faction and with party disaster. It should give place to a new declaration having that ringing appeal which will fire the spark of enthusiasm in the hearts of Republicans.

The old party will yet be cemented together more firmly than ever by the new realization that it is agreed on basic principles and disagrees only in non-essentials. The impending conflict with the Democracy in Congress will greatly aid the process of reconciliation by causing men who have differed to fight shoulder to shoulder. In their foreign policy the Democrats have already exposed a weak point, and others will appear as the tariff debate progresses and as other issues come up for solution.

SUCCESS OF NEW LAW FORECASTED.

Advance information from the forthcoming report of the Industrial Insurance Commission of Washington, given in an Olympia dispatch today, provides a valuable insight into the prospective success of the industrial insurance law lately adopted in Oregon. In essential respects—and there the Washington act is highly satisfactory—the two laws are not very far apart. On the other hand, in some smaller details where the Washington law has by experience been demonstrated to be defective, the Oregon act seems successfully to have evaded error.

The officials who administer the Washington law find among its defects the lack of a "first aid" provision—that is, a method for paying the hospital, surgical or other immediate costs of caring for injured workmen. Another fault is that the pensions or compensations paid for injuries are often inadequate. Still another complaint is that the act is not sufficiently supported by safety standards, causing the careful employer to pay for the losses of the careless employer. It is also found that the act falls short in forcing collections of premiums from the casual or remote employer. He is never heard from until one of his workmen is injured, and then the state fund is called upon for compensation, while the Commission may or may not be able to collect the back premiums from the employer.

These are all defects that may be easily remedied and are not enumerated here for the purpose of finding fault with state industrial insurance. The report indicates that the act in the main has wrought a vast improvement over the old experience with common law doctrines and recourse to courts in personal injury cases. The few faults indicated, because of their avoidance in the Oregon law, promise greater success for the state insurance principle in Oregon.

The Oregon law provides a first-aid plan by authorizing the Commission to expend not to exceed $250 in any one case in supplying medical or surgical attendance, hospital care, transportation or other accommodation necessary to the immediate welfare of the injured. The compensations authorized by the Oregon law average about 28 per cent greater than those allowed in the neighboring state. For example, while the maximum pension that may be paid a widow in Washington is $25 per month, the maximum in Oregon is $45. Oregon also has arranged an automatic guard against neglect of safety devices in the form of an increase in premiums imposed upon the individual employer whose workmen sustain accidents.

In the fourth matter, however, the Oregon law seems as lax as the Washington act. Collection of premiums from the casual or remote employer is left largely to chance. It is obvious that a seeking out of each of such employers by the state will be impracticable. Yet if neither he nor his workmen formally reject the law, a workman, if injured, is entitled to compensation from the fund collected by the state from other employers and employes. It is likely to transpire in Oregon, as it has in Washington, that certain individual employments will not be heard from until some workman therein is injured and puts in his claim for compensation. Still, this is a matter that can be readily remedied and such cases are not likely to be so numerous as to work a hardship on the fund in the period that will elapse before another meeting of the Legislature.

In view of the fact that we have accepted the good included in the main principle of the Washington act and avoided practically all of its minor faults, the gratifying record shown for the Washington act will doubtless encourage numerous employers or employes, who might otherwise have elected to remain under the present liability statute, to accept the terms of the insurance or compensation act.

GOOD OUTLOOK FOR THE WEST.

The speech of Senator O'Gorman in opposition to the Connecticut River dam bill is peculiarly important because it applies the Democratic principle of state rights to the control of water power and because the Senator's relations to President Wilson gives ground for the belief that he voices the opinion of the Administration on that subject. Mr. O'Gorman was one of the framers of the platform on which Mr. Wilson was elected and has shown himself to be in full accord with the progressive Democracy of which Mr. Wilson is the leader.

The Senator's speech defining the attitude of the Democracy on the water-power question shows that party to be of one mind with the public-land states of the West, regardless of party. On this question there is division of opinion between Eastern and Western Republicans. The former have been infected with the Pinchot microbe, but the latter desire each state to control its own water power.

There is good opportunity for settlement of the conservation issue in harmony with Western sentiment. The Democrats, reinforced by the Western Republicans, have ample numerical strength to pass revised land laws on the lines laid down by Senators O'Gorman, Borah and Nelson and to dispose of the Pinchot idea of Federal control of all details of their development.

HONESTY IN A PRIMARY.

Portland, Or., March 24.—(To the Editor)—Will The Oregonian kindly settle this dispute? A voter registered as a Republican wishes at the approaching primary election to vote for the Progressive candidate for Mayor, if there be a candidate. One man asserts that it will be impossible for him to do so, while another says that he may scratch out the name of the Republican candidate and write above it the name of the Progressive candidate. Which opinion is correct, and if the name is scratched which candidate will receive the vote?

A. C. NEWILL.

This inquiry illustrates the confusion of the general mind over the important matter of registration. If an intelligent man is not to know where he belongs, politically, and what he may do in his own primary, what is to be expected of others who do not keep close watch of public affairs and who know and care little about party forms?

If a Progressive desires to nominate a Progressive for Mayor or any other public office, it is his duty to cancel his registration as a Republican—if he is so registered—and re-register as a Progressive. Moreover, he has no alternative, unless he shall join in a conspiracy with others to give a Progressive a Republican nomination. But no so-called party Progressive is now a candidate for any office before the Republican primary, nor has he any moral right to be.

Let us answer specifically the questions of our correspondent: A voter registered as a Republican must vote in the Republican primary. But he may scratch the name of any Republican candidate and write in the name of a Progressive candidate. If the Progressive candidate should in this way get a plurality of Republican votes, he would be the Republican candidate for Mayor, and not the Progressive candidate, unless indeed he should also get the nomination at the Progressive primary. The votes cast for a Progressive in a Republican primary will not be added to the votes received by the same candidate in a Progressive primary, and vice versa.

It is the function of a Republican primary to nominate Republican candidates, and no other, and of a Progressive primary to nominate Progressive candidates, and no other. Any effort to confuse the lines between the several party organizations by voting for a Progressive in a Republican primary, or a Republican in a Progressive primary, is not only dishonest, but it is certain to be futile.

The Progressives have said that they want a party of their own. Why don't they have it?

GOOD BYE TO THE FIREHORSE.

The most hardened lover of new contrivances will pause in his worship of innovation to bewail the passing of the fire horse. His knell has been sounded in New York. It will not be long before he disappears from other cities. He has served man well for many generations. His beauty and courage have won him friends on all sides. His docility has made him the fireman's indispensable ally. But now the automobile has come and the fire horse must give way to it. The old order changeth, giving place to new.

The human race is evidently preparing to play one of its old tricks of ingratitude and send the horse to extinction after using him to build up civilization, as old monarchs compelled slaves to erect monuments and then slew them. We owe to the horse a debt we never could pay if from this time forward he were permitted to roam at liberty in the best pastures of the world. Without his aid the battles of olden time could not have been won. If he had not lent his strength to us, fields could not have been tilled nor forests cleared. Nature compelled man to choose between advancing painfully and slowly by his own strength or advancing rapidly by enslaving the horse. With great good sense he chose the latter alternative.

The human race never shows much gratitude to the bridge that carries it safely over. Our forefathers burned the bridge as soon as they had no further use for it, and this generation shows much the same disposition. The horse has fulfilled his mission. It is time for him to sing his death song, or get some poet to sing it for him, and disappear from the face of the earth.

The modest cow need fear no such melancholy fate, at least not quite yet. She has been the nursing mother of mankind ever since time began, and up to a few weeks ago one would have said that her services would secure her a good living forever, but now there are intimations which ought to make her tremble. A German chemist has invented synthetic milk. No doubt the destiny of the cow may be read in his advertisements. Her sun, too, is setting. The world of the future may be without domestic animals, except possibly cats.

A CONTRAST OF SPIRIT.

France has received with cheers the government's demand for longer service in the army and consequent increase in effective military force. The lesser German states are pausing to consider the Kaiser's and the Reichstag's call for more troops. In France anti-militarism is drowned in patriotic enthusiasm; in Germany it is displayed in the hesitancy of the lesser sovereigns and in the protests from the ever-swelling ranks of the Socialists.

Frenchmen take to soldiering as a duck takes to water. Germans think of the burden and whether the occasion requires them to bear it. The King of Saxony asks the other sovereigns of the German states whether they would not better let well enough alone with the army. He may well do so, for in his kingdom, with its great industrial cities, Socialism and its concomitant, anti-militarism, are most rife.

France, too, enjoys the advantage of practical unity—solidarity, as Frenchmen call it. It is one state with one heart and one voice. Germany is a federation of many states, each with its own heart and its own voice. Each state contributes a certain contingent to the imperial army. The two corps of Saxony, the one of Alsace-Lorraine and the one of Wurtemberg are numbered consecutively with the imperial corps, but Bavaria's three are numbered separately and preserve their identity. These states, which rank next to Prussia in population, may feel that they are already doing their full share, for Saxony supplies 50,000 soldiers from among 4,797,700 people, Bavaria 70,000 from among 6,524,372 and Wurtemberg 25,000 from among 2,302,179.

Germany may begin to ponder whether the glory of military greatness is worth the price, for a new generation has grown up since the triumph of 1870-71. France, glorying in recovered strength, smarts with the recollection of defeat and longs to wipe off the stain. If the two nations should soon get to grips, this contrast of spirit may enter into the result of the strife.

A NEW KIND OF SCHOOL.

It seems appropriate that some of the most original ideas in modern education should be advanced by women. Their tastes and habits of mind lead them to study children, and it is only reasonable that they should find defects in the school systems which men have invented and propose new ones more in accordance with sound principles. Dr. Montessori's educational methods and theories have stirred the whole world. Many oppose them from beginning to end, pinning their faith on the older ways mainly because they are old and it would be troublesome to change them. Others are enthusiastic over Dr. Montessori's work and believe that it will revolutionize our schools from the primary grades to the college. Now comes another woman, Mrs. Marietta L. Johnson, with views of teaching which may prove to be better than Dr. Montessori's. She has established a school not far from Mobile at a village called Fairhope and already numerous students of education have spoken with deep interest of what she is doing.

Mrs. Johnson's theories are very similar to those of the Montessori system. She believes in basing education on the child's interest, declines to help him in his tasks unless he appeals to her of his own free will, depends a great deal upon the hand and eyes and excludes anything like formal examinations. Her chief advantage over the Italian teacher seems to be that she has a less elaborate outfit of apparatus. Dr. Montessori insists so strongly upon blocks and other articles designed according to certain exact rules that many teachers might suppose nothing could be done without them. Those who have been trained in any famous system of teaching are only too prone to make fetishes of all its details, even the most insignificant. There is a story of a young woman, a graduate from a celebrated institution in the East, who went to a distant state to accept a position. On arriving she discovered to her dismay that she had forgotten to bring any lentils along, and since there happened to be none for sale in the village where she was to teach, she could not open school. Her professor at the normal school had used lentils in his number work with children and the young woman supposed nothing else could possibly do as well. Peas, beans and marbles would have been shockingly unorthodox and pedagogically useless.

One of the dangers of the Montessori system is that teachers will make idols out of her elaborate apparatus and fancy that the entire outfit is indispensable. Mrs. Johnson, as we learn from an article in the Sunday Times, avoids this danger by using any apparatus that comes to hand. The crudest serves her purpose as well as the most artistic and expensive. Her educational maxim is that the child's will should be led, not forced, and that the studies ordinarily imposed upon him as tasks should be offered as a privilege. This may seem a little startling to teachers who have never seen anything in the way of education except the processes of the machine, but it is sensible enough. In the old-fashioned district school, where all grades of children were taught together, it was common to see a pupil begging the teacher to let him begin some new study. The sight of the older boys doing sums in algebra at the blackboard inspired younger ones with curiosity to know what it was all about. In the same way the little scholars grew ambitious to take up geography and history. They caught just enough from the more advanced classes to rouse their curiosity, which is a most valuable educational help when it has not been stupefied. Mrs. Johnson says she "lets" pupils begin to write when they ask for it as a privilege. On the same principle when they see others reading they want to learn how to do it and, as a special favor, she permits them to begin. The application of this device is as wide as creation. One can easily see how a woman like Mrs. Johnson, whose resources seem to be endless, can build up a whole course of education upon it, the pupil running forward of his own desire instead of being pushed from behind.

She begins every subject with experience. The child cuts apples into quarters and then into eighths, and so on, long before he sees anything about fractions in print. In fact, he masters the whole subject of numbers with eye and hand before he learns the figures which stand for them. No doubt this process quickens his wits as much as the ordinary prosing over definitions and rules dulls them. So it is with all the other subjects of education. Mrs. Johnson creates by the child's rich experience an apperceiving nest into which the theory will in due time be received and find itself perfectly at home. Of course a woman of her abundant common sense perceives that education means a great deal more than merely storing up knowledge in the memory. She lays so much stress on good health and proper bodily habits that her school at Fairhope has won renown as a sanitarium. Instead of children being taken out of her school now and then to recover their health invalids are sent there to recover. Like Dr. Montessori, she assigns to each little one a garden which it cultivates as it likes. Many of the classes are held in the open air and there is no such thing as a programme of rigid quiet such as we see in ordinary schools. Tasks are done in an atmosphere of free activity. No lessons are taken home to be learned at night. There are no examinations to pass. In fact, the machinery of the ordinary school seems to have been completely abandoned. And yet, unless the reports are sadly misleading, Mrs. Johnson teaches her young people more and they learn it in a shorter time than boys and girls usually do in the public schools. How shall we account for the marvel?

The Federal authorities burned up 20,000,000 new postage stamps the other day. They had been printed for the Panama Exposition and bore a picture of the locks at Pedro Miguel. But the legend read "Gatun Locks," and so they were thrown into the furnace. If some shrewdly dishonest employe had yielded to the temptation to save a few, philatelists would have paid him almost any price for them. Presumably the postal employes are above temptation and therefore these stamps have disappeared completely.

No city family dreams nowadays of supplying its own light or water, but each household still keeps up a heating plant. This is because gas, electricity and water can be conducted from a central station with little waste, while heat cannot. Congress has ordered that the Government buildings at Washington shall be heated from a central plant. This will lead to experimenting which may cause the furnace and the kitchen stove to go the way of the kerosene lamp.

Loss of life in Omaha was great because everybody was at home at that hour Sunday and the tornado traveled through a residence section. Locally it would be as if the path of the disaster embraced Laurelhurst, Sunnyside, Sellwood and so on, an eight-mile strip of desolation.

Perhaps President Wilson does wisely to defer asking Congress to act on other measures until the tariff is out of the way. By that time the weather may be so hot, Congress so tired and the year so far advanced that Congress will have no energy to tackle other subjects.

In one respect the Wellesley girls who refuse to marry unless the man has an income of $5000 show good judgment. That kind of husband is worth landing. What the men will think when hooked is another story.

Commend the thoughtfulness of the Hood River man who saved two incubators and the embryo fowls therein from the flames that destroyed his dwelling. He will have Winter eggs to sell and recoup the loss.

With grotesque color effects and stovepipe skirts in style, we shortly may find ourselves unable to distinguish at a distance between a lady friend and a barber pole.

Motorcycle riders take too many chances and too much for granted as they fly through the streets. They need regulating more than drivers of the big machines.

Ocean bathing season is opened. For the time being, however, some few of us will continue taking our baths in the family tub.

Ah, cruel fate! Why don't they offer one of those rejected Ambassadorships to a real job-hunting type of Democrat?

If the gunmen of rival tongs should be deported on the same ship, they might save the law much trouble by practicing on each other.

California is investigating the planting of bamboo and other tropical growth. Arctic vegetation might also profitably be looked into.

Vancouver threatens to reply to Governor Lister's bridge bill veto by saying: "We can get along without you, anyhow."

Miss Shedd will have no difficulty in finding a man to help her in winning that $3,000,000, but will she find the right one?

The price of butter is rising, but new grass soon will cover the fields and "June" butter be here ahead of the calendar.

Bachelors up in Klamath, in the Land of Nod, want wives and are ready to bid on carload lots anywhere f. o. b.

Yes, we are having intermittent clouds, showers and hail here. But look at the rest of the country!

Will R. King, Democratic National Committeeman, will yet need a political coon trap to catch anything.

Hail, all hail! Wherein we refer exclusively to recent and frequent weather manifestations hereabouts.

Two hundred wives are asked for by Langell Valley bachelors. How many bachelors are there?

Democrats in Idaho are having trouble over division of plums. There's going to be bloodshed yet.

Democrats in Idaho seem to be grabbing the plums about as fast as their Oregon brethren.

WHAT STATE PAYS FOR PRINTING.

Records Disclose Outlay of About $40,000 Gross Per Annum.

CANBY, Or., March 21.—(To the Editor.)—I am confused by conflicting reports as to the amount of money paid by the State of Oregon annually for printing. One paper says "the State Printer is making $150,000 a year clear from the printing." Another paper says "he makes $475,000 in a term." Then how much would he receive gross each year? Not long ago The Oregonian said editorially "the printer draws nearly $75,000," but I am unable to determine whether that sum is gross or net, and whether it is for one year or for a biennial period.

Will you enlighten me by giving the facts? VOTER.

There is little difficulty in learning the amounts paid by the state for printing, as the books of the State Treasurer, the Secretary of State and the State Printer must all show the number and value of each warrant issued in his favor.

The State Printer's report to the Legislature for 1911-12 gives in full the amount of printing he has done during the past six years—a total of $230,422.23 since 1906, or an average of $38,407.04 gross per year. The Printer furnishes the plant, employs and pays printers and pressmen, and meets miscellaneous expense, such as inks, power, oils, etc.; but the state provides the paper and rooms in the lower story of the State House. His original bills are on file in the Secretary of State's office.

For the years 1911 and 1912 the printing charged to the different departments, commissions and institutes of the state, as given on pages 6 and 7 of the State Printer's report, amounted to $43,382.90 and $35,996.36, respectively, as follows:

	1911.	1912.
Legislature of 1911	$ 7,140.79	.....
Secretary of State	9,893.32	$ 4,008.30
Motor Vehicle Dept.	1,150.74	1,061.36
Banking Department	689.00	670.70
Attorney-General	590.91	528.87
Labor Commissioner	693.48	316.30
Dairy and Food Commissioner	290.07	183.54
Department of Education	2,723.92	1,819.93
Board of Examiners	303.72	231.32
Railroad Commission	1,361.97	730.73
Insurance Department	2,110.93	[illegible]
State Board of Forestry	363.05	309.67
Board Tax Commissioners	1,200.77	1,526.31
Supreme Court	231.40	107.92
Supreme Court Reports	5,400.00	5,400.00
Executive Department	60.22	25.06
Printing Department	14.74	13.80
Treasury Department	198.95	588.70
State Land Agent	10.54	7.82
Board of Control	233.61	164.73
State Engineer	244.03	258.05
Desert Land Board	32.94	208.83
State Land Board	226.23	111.03
State Library	22.34	20.42
Library Commission	498.61	288.14
State Purchasing Board	68.71	31.27
Stallion Registration B'd	102.60	302.47
Conservation Commission	13.35	355.33
Child Labor Commission	22.30	22.34
Game and Fisheries Department	360.21	506.06
Board of Sheep Commissioners	11.80	10.32
Veterinary Medical B'd	.....	44.20
Insane Asylum	317.43	337.41
School for the Blind	6.46	12.44
Institution for Feeble-minded	219.22	62.46
State Tuberculosis Sanatorium	59.52	60.36
Eastern Oregon State Hospital	18.00	4.40
State Training School	16.61	50.05
State Penitentiary	46.34	104.39
Oregon Normal School	159.64	208.74
State Immigration Board	.....	354.17
Oregon Agricultural College	171.22	1,742.47
Bureau of Mines	.....	360.25
University of Oregon	1,364.27	1,357.59
Medical Department	.....	48.72
Soldiers' Home	.....	.....
School for Deaf-Mutes	.....	.....
State Board of Health	356.61	781.10
State Board of Horticulture	560.10	53.41
State Horticultural Society	44.13	321.26
Oregon Naval Militia	59.15	8.48
Oregon National Guard	1,040.13	497.97
State Portage Railway	107.82	29.02
Commission to revise Judicial system	11.68	.....
State Board of Agriculture	660.02	818.83
District Fair Boards	1,724.20	1,807.73
Initiative pamphlets for the general election	.....	6,126.66
Total	$43,382.90	$35,996.36

The following sums were received by the State Printer from citizens of Oregon for work required by law to be done in 1912:

Candidates' pamphlets, primary election	$1,761.28
Nominees' pamphlets, general election	2,486.95
Arguments in initiative pamphlets	3,196.00

The Oregonian's remark that the amount paid by the state for printing was nearer $75,000 than $475,000 biennially came close to the actual figures.

Taking into consideration the great quantity of printing required by the "Oregon system," the cost of the public printing is moderate. The steady growth of the state increases the amount of printing required yearly. Probably it will not again fall below $40,000 gross per year.

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO HAPPEN

Mexico Will Hoist American Flag and the Earth Will Tip Over.

PORTLAND, March 24.—(To the Editor.)—As one who predicted in his own circle the Spanish-American war, the Missouri flood and the San Francisco diaster, I wish to make known two "things" that are going to happen, to-wit:

First—That by her own volition Mexico will hoist the American flag.

Second—That a great and radical change in the climatic conditions of the world will be made by virtue of the tipping of the earth. What is now the North Pole will be the equator. The pole will then have shifted to where the equator is. The time is near when this will take place. The present peculiarities in the climatic conditions may be what I would call the forerunner of such happening.

When this happens great destruction to both life and property will be resultant. But on the other hand not as much as would be expected in such a great change.

For reasons otherwise than not feeling assured that this prediction will be verified, I will sign myself

DEVINE CLARAVOYANT.

Renaming Broadway.

PORTLAND, March 24.—(To the Editor.)—Because Seventh street has had a shave and is a bit wider for a few blocks, it hardly seems justified to monopolize good old Broadway. Why should the tail wag the dog?

Broadway begins at the river and runs out to the Sandy road. It's a fine attractive street bearing the name it has been known by for many years. As a long-time resident on it and a tax payer I wish to register my protest against those who would balmly appropriate our good name, help themselves to our street signs and push us as far off the earth as possible.

We're willing to share, to give the square deal to our friends at the other end of the bridge. We're willing to permit them to change the natural name for their street, which will be far less confusing to strangers than Broadway, and allow them to be a continuation of our good street. But we object most decidedly to being termed East Broadway. It is too suggestive of a far different kind of street than we dwell upon. If the West Side desires to call itself West Broadway that would be more in keeping with its business character. But at any rate if Seventh street wishes to marry Mr. Broadway, have affection enough for us to take our own good name, but at the same time give us the privilege of keeping our own dear name and using it.

Begin numbering at the river, keeping the numbers as near what they are now as possible, as that is the only guide streetcar men have to direct strangers to like numbers on parallel streets. JAMES D. CORBY.

WHY DO SOME GIRLS GO WRONG?

Higher Wages May Lessen Danger, But Chief Fault Is Elsewhere.

PORTLAND, March 24.—(To the Editor.)—Everyone admits that many female employes are paid too little, yet the agitation for a compulsory increase of wages is largely born of sympathetic impulses and is most actively indulged in by those who have no knowledge of the causes of vice or the results of the legislation demanded.

In all the testimony presented to the Illinois investigating committee there appears to be one conspicuous allegation, or rather a forgetting of actual facts. The allegation or intimation is that the women of the working class supply about all the female denizens of the red-light district. The fact overlooked is that their ranks are as much recruited from the so-called upper levels of society. Admitting that legislation will aid the former, though it is a question of grave doubt, it surely will not save the latter and therefore it will not remove the social evil in any degree.

The number of women who have sold themselves for bread and meat is exceedingly small. The professional prostitute class in their eagerness to justify their lives and in their characteristic tendency to follow the line of least resistance by testifying to that which they know they are wished to testify to may advance hunger and privation as excuses, but as a matter of fact investigations made under normal conditions by trained investigators without suggestion of an answer do not show that any material number whatever are driven by necessity to a life of shame.

The plain truth is that there are at least as many bad women in the well-to-do class as among the poor, that as many prostitutes come from the former as the latter, that there is more secret sinning in the former than the latter and that the former carry an enormous burden of responsibility for setting an example of extravagance, dangerous habits and loose morals before those whose unfortunate heritage is a sad desire to emulate those supposedly more fortunate.

One prostitute before the Chicago committee told the truth when saying that the chief contributing cause to women's downfall was the persistent efforts of men who laid seductive entertainment in their way, and we know too well that those men are not confined to the working class. Ten thousand women fall from grace because their appetites, their envy, their sympathies and their sentiments open an approach to their passions, where one pursues the primrose path because of hunger. Liquor has ruined 10,000 where privation has led one astray. Can you legislate those facts away?

If an increase in wages of $1,000,000 would save one poor girl the money should be spent, but to enforce a general raise in compensation will only mean a repetition of the old story of compelling every consumer to contribute toward the added expense. The remuneration thus exacted is always greater than the outlay and, being distributed over all necessities of life, will result in no final benefit to the women who work.

By all means lessen the danger if it can be done. Pay more wages or adopt any other method, but do not forget that the fundamental fault lies within ourselves. Higher wages for working women will not improve the morals of the men of our day and until that improvement is effected we are subject to the temptations which exist because there are men and women and because some of them are worse and weaker than others. It is a moral question, not one of dollars.

JOHN. A. ROGERS.

WIDENING OF BURNSIDE OPPOSED

Property Owner Says Movement Is Causing Losses to Owners.

PORTLAND, March 18.—(To the Editor.)—By persistently agitating the widening of Burnside street, against the wishes of practically all the property owners on that street, the Greater Portland Plans Association is doing a lot of people a tremendous financial injury. The property sees no necessity for the improvement and does not want it. Yet the impression is broadcast that it is generally in favor of it, and that how much the street shall be widened alone remains to be decided. The property holders may be somewhat to blame for allowing this matter to go as far as it has without positive opposition, but they considered the widening unnecessary and the agitation unlikely to come to anything, and gave no real serious attention to it until Mayor Rushlight was reported as advocating the establishment of a line a certain distance back from the curb, outside of which property should not be allowed to build until the widening plan was perfected. This called a meeting of the property holders at once, for such legislation would absolutely tie up the whole street, no one being willing to build at a distance from the curb line, and all property being unsalable because of the restriction.

At the meeting it developed a number of deals had already been held up if not actually killed by the agitation, one in particular being a 25-year lease with the erection of a concrete structure at Eleventh and Burnside, and another a building in the neighborhood of Seventh and Burnside streets. To treat people's property like this is not right, and the Burnside-street property holders would like to know whether, as taxpayers, they have not a right to the undisturbed possession of their premises, or whether all the financial value is to be taken away from them by an agitation for street widening which they do not want, and for which they can see no reasonable necessity. With Portland blocks but 200 feet deep, they feel there is already ample street space, far more than other cities have, and that wide streets are a detriment to business, not a benefit.

But for this constant agitation a number of buildings might have been built on Burnside street since the opening of Oak street, and improvements might go ahead at once if the agitation were stopped; but it continues in spite of no evidence whatever that the Greater Portland plans will ever be carried out as a whole or in part. The Library has not conformed to them, neither will the Auditorium; and if Burnside street is widened there is no guarantee that it will ever be necessary, for it surely is not necessary now, and it is time enough to talk of widening when it has been decided to do some of the other things which were supposed to make widening advisable. The location of a union depot, the cutting through of a diagonal road to the northwest from Park and Burnside, the widening of East Burnside, and cutting through of the Sandy Road were reasons given for widening Burnside street, and if the Greater Portland Plans committee will show these things guaranteed, and a real need of Burnside widening, the property holders might be willing to discuss limited widening, though I cannot say they would; but to start in on Burnside street in this way, to the detriment of the property, without any guarantee at all that any other portion of the plans will be adopted, is wrong, and should not be further permitted.

PROPERTY HOLDER.

"Linnton" Is Correct.

PORTLAND, March 24.—(To the Editor.) — Kindly inform me the correct way to spell "Linnton," Or. I note on page 42 of the light list of the Pacific Coast, published by the United States Government in 1912, they use but one "n" in the name. EDWARD BRAY.

Simplified Spelling

By Dean Collins.

Of latest freaks on which to write
A merry rondel, ode or sonnet,
I've found a freak more freakish than
The new Bulgarian blouse or bonnet.

It is the brand new fashions set
In spelling, simplified for using
By the great Spelling Board, to ease
The task of writing and perusing.

In the new list they're sending forth,
Shorn of their trimmings, 'fore us wobble
Old words, in latest fashion dressed—
Close-fitting vowels, an ultra-hobble.

The silent consonants once worn
The Spelling Board pronounces treason;
"Superfluous letters all must go—
Words are not wearing them this season."

If I would hie me to my home,
To my own hearth, I find it looted—
The Spelling Board hath borne it off
And a stiff "harth" is substituted.

Ah, woe is me! I've lost my heart,
That yesterday with glee was jumping—
The Spelling Board decrees my blood
Shall by a "hart" henceforth go pumping.

If I would give a hearty laugh,
The Spelling Board denies that pleasure;
By a short "laf" henceforth must I
The limits of my gladness measure.

Or if I start to jangh in glee,
My lips in joyful grinning crooking;
I'm forced to change it to a "cof,"
For fear the Spelling Board is looking.

Avaunt, hard-hearted Spelling Board!
My soul for liberty is yelling;
I scorn the "fantoms" you would raise!
You shall not "bos" me in my spelling!

If you persist, and try to cram
Your new revisions down my maw, sir,
I warn you, I'll rebel at once,
And start in "spellynge just lyke Chaucer."

Portland, March 24.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 25, 1863.

Recent letters from the Boise mines and vicinity confirm reports in regard to the hostility of the Snake Indians in that country. Several persons have already been brutally murdered and scalped by these savages. That there will be a war with these Indians the coming Summer there is every reason to believe.

Jacksonville was honored by a visit from Captain Kelly's company of mounted rangers. The appearance of the men was excellent, their bearing soldierly and their riding all that could be desired.

Our Government has determined upon building three enormous ironclads, to be 400 feet long and much more formidable than either the British Warrior or the French Gloire. The iron armor of the turrets will be two feet thick and the iron bow as sharp as a knife blade.

Mr. H. S. Jacobs, of this city, informs us that he has just completed a new machine for making wagon-wheels, which surpasses anything of the kind ever before invented.

The Willamette Theater will again be opened tonight under the management of Mr. J. P. Dennison, upon which occasion will be presented the semi-tragical play of "The Robbers, or the Forests of Bohemia," in which Mr. and Mrs. Waldron, assisted by Messrs. Thayer and Mortimer, will appear in appropriate casts.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of March 25, 1888.

Mrs. A. E. Borthwick will return today after eight months' absence in the East and California.

Mr. S. G. Fulton, assistant general freight agent of the Northern Pacific, is expected to return today from San Francisco.

The Oregon Bicycle Club will take a run over to Vancouver Barracks today, weather permitting.

The city Directory, which will be issued the end of this month, contains in the Portland portion 1650 more names than last year, which, by using three as multiplier, the lowest used in any computation of population, will give an increase for the past 12 months of 4950.

On Tuesday next the schooner being built at Skamokawa by Montgomery & Colwell for the Coast lumber trade will be launched. The schooner will probably be named Michigan.

Commencing next week the Water Commission will use wood as fuel at the Palatine pumping station. A supply of 600 cords has been secured as a starter. It cost $3 a cord. The average price paid for coal was $7 a ton. The equivalent of a ton of coal can now be had for $4.50.

The Democrats of this county held their primaries last evening to elect delegates to the county convention. The following is a list of the delegates elected: North Portland—Polling place No. 1, John Finnerty, Richard Gerdes; No. 2, M. G. Munly, P. Riley, Captain W. J. Riley, William Cummings; No. 3, John Clark, Theodore Liebe, S. Neppach, M. Doherty; No. 4, C. C. Scott, Charles J. Kennedy, Sidney Delaney; No. 5, T. A. Sutherland, Patrick Bowers, W. A. Scoggin, John W. Holman, Ben. L. Norden; South Portland—No. 1, J. C. Welch, E. Meyer; No. 2, Thomas Duffy, H. W. Cushing, W. H. Mansfield; No. 3, A. E. Walt, V. K. Strode, P. F. Castleman; No. 4, Peter Taylor, R. Mendenhall, George A. Brodie; No. 5, Joseph N. Teal, Fred V. Holman; East Portland—F. A. E. Starr, G. D. McStrand and Charles Fernau; Holladay's Addition—John De Boest and James Powell.

The Republican Central Club of East Portland last night had a discussion of the proposed annexation to Portland. Mr. Merrick opposed. Mr. Hislop, F. R. Neale, Mr. Mayo, Mr. Kenworthy, Frank Hacheney, William Fliedner, Max Bloomer, Mr. Thompson and Mayor Wheeler favored annexation.

Washington Town Feels Quake.

LA CENTER, Wash., March 21.—(To the Editor.)—There was quite a tremor here on the night of March 19, between 9 and 10 o'clock, which old settlers pronounced an earthquake. It seemed to rock north and south and lasted about five or six seconds and was noticed by nearly all inhabitants of this section of Clark County. We would like to know if it was felt in Portland or any Coast cities. AMOS CLEM.

Bad California Custom Invading City.

PORTLAND, March 24.—(To the Editor.)—The California custom of carrying cans or pails of beer by boozers to their homes through the streets of your city should be prohibited. It is a custom which is suggesting the people.

G. M. M'ALLISTER.
687 Thurman Street.