The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1913.

SMALL DOSES FOR DIVORCE DISEASE.

An example of the useless discussion and disturbance of mind that can be caused by the advocacy of a statute merely directory in character is just now given in Illinois. There a commission on marriage and divorce has proposed a bill containing a provision which requires the state's attorney to represent the state in all divorce proceedings and to prosecute the offenders in case he sees evidence of collusion or other unlawful practice. A committee from the Illinois Lawyers' Association has protested against the law as a reflection on the bar and on the court and denies that the judges or the lawyers need the presence of the state's attorney to keep them in the straight path. Judge Kavanaugh has replied with a censure of divorce lawyers in general and accuses them of contributing by their methods to the social evil.

It might as well be admitted that Judge Kavanaugh's censure, as it applies to some divorce lawyers, is roundly deserved. Many make it their business to aggravate the conjugal quarrel which may have begun over some trifle. They are a medium through which collusive divorces are arranged. It is their business to make divorce easy and to accomplish that end they sometimes go to the extent of offering services which may be paid for on the installment plan. But if experience is a safe guide, the Illinois Lawyers' Association need not worry about the interference of the state's attorney in divorce proceedings, provided the law goes no further than to direct the state's attorney to participate.

Every state has a list of similar statutes. For example, the Governor is usually instructed by statute to uphold and enforce the laws, but is given inadequate machinery and little summary power to perform that duty. In Oregon a statute similar to the one that is creating disturbance in Illinois was enacted, if we mistake not the date, in 1862. It is still in force. The state is deemed a party defendant in all divorce proceedings. The party plaintiff is required to serve summons upon the District Attorney. It is the duty of the District Attorney to prevent fraud and collusion in such suit and to control the proceedings on the part of the defense. While not specifically charged, it is undoubtedly his duty to prosecute offenders in the event the trial discloses unlawful collusion. Yet the law is and always has been practically a dead letter. To perfect the record the summons is served on the District Attorney and there the matter ends. One Oregon city has begun to rival Reno as a divorce center. Collusion and fraud are undoubtedly common and certainly they occasionally become public knowledge.

Doubtless one reason why the law does not bring the District Attorney actively into divorce trials is the absence of provision for the assistance his office would require if such a great volume of work were undertaken. Another reason is that the divorce evil is so insidious in its effect on society that each individual case loses its importance in the public estimation. The fraud or collusion in each case affects directly only the parties in interest. Society is damaged directly only by an accumulation of reprehensible practices. The public demand is not interested in a systematic, tedious, detailed attack upon the evil, and therefore does not hold its officials to strict account for neglect of duty. It longs for the single crushing blow that will eradicate what is bad in divorce proceedings. The law that has failed in Oregon and is proposed in Illinois prescribes a homeopathic dose for the disease of easy and causeless divorce. The prescription is one that readily occurs to our law doctors but the great difficulty is encountered in getting the medicine into the patient.

WILSON BREAKS PRECEDENTS.

By his breaking of precedents President Wilson has shown his determination to be governed by his own opinion as to what is right. He has already broken sixteen precedents and is giving us an example of Jeffersonian simplicity in practical operation and of directness in dealing with the people.

First to go was the inaugural ball, which had degenerated into a scandal. Then went the favorite barber, for the President shaves himself, as he washes his face and dons his clothes himself, like any other citizen except the idle rich. He has abolished the gold-lace uniforms of his aides, the draping of his box at the theater with flags and the playing of the National anthem at his entrance. He refuses to work on Sundays, will have only cold suppers on Sunday evenings, allows no intoxicating liquors in the White House and has declined to join the Chevy Chase Club, thus showing his fidelity to Presbyterian discipline. He declines to be a show when he goes to church, for a crowd gathered at the door to see him is a signal for him to go elsewhere.

In his official relations he has refused to follow old customs. He declines to waste time on office-seekers; if he wishes to see them, he sends for them. He accepts no dictation from politicians; he is the actual as well as the titular head of the Government and will follow his own judgment. When he has anything to tell the people, he says it directly and allows himself to be quoted without the former indirection of "it is said," or "it is stated on the highest authority." His Cabinet meets whenever there is business to do, not on set days, and its decisions are considered public property. He does not use the Executive order to set aside civil service regulations, obeying the law even when it goes counter to his wishes.

The President's course thus far proves that he regards himself as the man hired by the people to do their work. He considers that the mere fact that his position is the biggest job in the country is no excuse for a lot of flunkeyism and flummery, for the gratification of idle curiosity about himself and his family, nor for the invasion of his privacy or the waiving of his own tastes and convictions in social matters.

MANY SIDES TO THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Opinions of those who, through their life work, are in the best position to judge, confirm the opinion expressed by The Oregonian that there is no one reason why girls go wrong. In order to check an alarmingly growing social evil, we must approach the study of it with an open mind, ready to take cognizance of all the causes, to weigh each one and to decide its relative importance, then to find the best means of removing each contributing cause and to invoke that means. We must apply the remedy, not spasmodically, in a burst of reforming fervor, but patiently, systematically, ever ready to learn by the experience we gain as we go along.

To assume that this is a mere question of wages is to put a price on girls' chastity. To act on the theory that girls will follow the straight path at a higher wage but will fall at a lower wage is to make female purity a matter of mere dollars and cents. Such virtue is no virtue at all. Those who were interviewed in The Sunday Oregonian emphasize the diversity of the causes. Among these are lax divorce laws, which break up families and throw girls on the world to follow their own devices; lack of parental guidance and discipline; absence of instruction in the terrible consequences of a fall from purity; the unsatisfied yearning for love and pleasure; the different codes of morality accepted for the two sexes, which allow men to do with impunity what is visited with the severest social penalties when done by women.

We need to study all these shortcomings of ours and we should know no rest from the subject, for even after we have set the remedies to work we shall need persistent activity to keep them at work. The subject is one of vital importance to our National life, for the social evil is destroying many of the future generation of mothers and is poisoning the souls and bodies of the succeeding generation of children. No worse evil could exist among any people.

NEWSPAPER OR ORGAN?

Ofttimes a strange misapprehension is indicated by newspapers readers as to the course a newspaper should follow in defending or promoting its political views. The subject is brought prominently to the fore by the publication in The Oregonian of the first installment of the biography of Theodore Roosevelt. In commenting upon this interesting offering "A Woman Voter" writes to The Oregonian as follows:

> It is a well-known fact that hero-worship was responsible for a large part of the so-called Progressive vote at the last Presidential election. The presenting of a history of Roosevelt's life set forth by his own egotistical pen cannot fail to foster this tendency to hero-worship, particularly, I regret to say, among women who are liable to be moved by sentiment rather than fact, and who see in him the man and not the politician. Whatever tends to increase personal admiration for Roosevelt will tend to perpetuate the division in the Republican party which all true Republicans must deplore.
>
> I desire to protest against the exploiting of the man who is responsible for the late sweeping Democratic victory in the paper which so largely molds the political mind of the people of Oregon.

There are many thousand voters in Oregon who sincerely admire the personal traits and accomplishments of Theodore Roosevelt who are not in accord with his present political activities. He is one of the most prominent figures in our National life. His life history from his own pen is one of the most important literary productions of the day. It cannot fail to interest friends, enemies and the indifferent. This newspaper would fall far short of its duty toward its subscribers if, for political reasons, it declined to publish in its news columns or magazine section matter which it knew they desired to read.

Once established, the line would have to be rigidly drawn. It is no more incumbent upon The Oregonian to omit interesting material concerning Colonel Roosevelt than it is to suppress news of the activities of President Wilson. If publication of that which is good or interesting about the career of Colonel Roosevelt will perpetuate division in the Republican party, publication of whatever constructive legislation the Democratic Administration may accomplish will help to preserve Democratic power.

The journal that permits its political opinions, or even the welfare of the party whose cause it espouses, to control its selection of news and special fatures is not a newspaper but a political organ. That is one thing The Oregonian is not.

HOW TO SEND RELIEF.

When such disasters as the Ohio and Indiana floods befall, the sending of the right kind of relief is as important as sending relief at all. The lesson of the Johnstown flood, the San Francisco earthquake and fire and other catastrophies teaches us this fact.

The first necessity in such a case is food. That invariably comes from the adjoining states and is available in abundance before any supply from states so remote as Oregon can possibly reach the scene. The next need is clothes, to which the same statement applies in less degree. Within twenty-four hours after Johnstown was wrecked by the flood in 1889 a trainload of food and clothing was on the way from Pittsburg and reached the scene in thirty hours after the disaster. Within forty-eight hours the tracks between Pittsburg and Johnstown were crowded with trains carrying food and clothing. Next come drugs, medical, surgical and sanitary supplies. These also will reach the flooded country from the thickly populated adjoining states long before Oregon's contribution can arrive.

The survivors having been fed and clothed, the sick and injured cared for, the dead buried, the next thing to do is to "clean up" the stricken town. A flood leaves streets and houses cumbered with wreckage and dead animals and coated with mud. It wrecks the sewer and water systems and forces people to return to primitive methods of sanitation and to use water which cannot but be more or less impure. Dead animals must be gathered up and destroyed, and meanwhile everything must be disinfected.

All industry and all business being stopped, the population is unemployed, but can be given employment in the work of cleaning up, removing wreckage, and repairing damage. Relief funds can best be expended in this work. Able-bodied, self-respecting men, reduced to poverty by sudden disaster, do not wish to be dependent on relief supplies for their living. They gladly go to work and at laborer's wages and pay their way until normal conditions are so far restored that they can make a fresh start in their regular occupations.

Then comes the rebuilding of the wrecked homes. At Johntown after the immediate needs of the people had been supplied and the town cleaned up, a large balance of the relief fund remained. This was used in building houses or in enabling those who had owned houses to rebuild them. A man who had shown enough thrift to buy a lot and build a house was held worthy of being entrusted with money to expend himself in rebuilding. The relief committee built only for the homeless. A large sum will be necessary for this purpose and it should go forward in cash, though Oregon may well be able to contribute a portion in the shape of lumber.

Oregon's contribution should, therefore, take the form of cash almost entirely, for that can be made available most quickly and can be turned into the shape which those on the ground find most needed at any particular time.

FRANK S. BLACK.

The death of Frank S. Black, ex-Governor of New York, was the passing of one of the most brilliant of the old-style politicians. He played the game as it was played by and with the bosses, and, when he fought the bosses, he did so with no better aim than to supplant them. Personally loved by a band of devoted political followers, he sought distinction only to have it repeatedly snatched from his grasp. His one term as Representative was followed by one term as Governor, and there his political successes ended and his disappointments began. Allies deserted him at the critical moment and handed the coveted prize to others. He learned to compare politics to a poker game where other players stole his chips while he answered the telephone. The game lost its charm for him. He made a moderate fortune at law practice with his mind set on retirement to his New Hampshire farm. Within a few months after realizing his desire he was dead at the comparatively early age of 60.

Pushed to the front in the House by Speaker Reed, who quickly discerned his ability and was gratified at his success in being elected through a factional quarrel in a normally Democratic district, he was picked by Platt for Governor in 1896 and was carried through by the great vote for McKinley in New York. Though having no higher standards, he refused to submit to Platt's dictation, and the boss found Theodore Roosevelt's popularity a good excuse to push him aside in 1898. Thenceforward the rough rider dogged his political footsteps, simply through the fortune of war, but Black found some consolation in the things which Mr. Roosevelt did to Platt. When Governor Odell tried to make Black United States Senator, Mr. Roosevelt and Harriman forced him to abandon Black for Depew. That ended Black's political career, for he did not again come to the front except to make an occasional speech. Fate would have it that his most famous oratorical effort should be a speech nominating Mr. Roosevelt for President in 1904.

As a public speaker he stood in the first rank of his time, and his speeches were quoted the country over, but his fame did not last. Perhaps the explanation is to be found in his lack of political conscience and his blindness to the new forces which were to send machine politicians into retirement. As a lawyer he was associated with the efforts to defeat the progressive aims of Governor Hughes. He failed, and gained fees only at the cost of his fame. Mr. Hughes, on the other hand, won not only fees, but fame and higher honors by his conduct of the insurance inquiry.

Such talents as Black's, exercised in more recent times in political strife as it is carried on under the new dispensation and with the ideals which now fill the public mind, might have won him the honors which he lost by such narrow margins, or even higher honors. Exercised as they were, they gained him an ephemeral fame as a man of great possibilities who fell short of his opportunities.

WILD GUESSING.

We have word from the Oregon City Courier, which gets it "from pretty good authority" that the State Grange intends to submit a measure for the abolishment of the State Senate. This information is accompanied by the statement that "just as surely as the matter is ever given to the voters, just so surely is the Senate going to the discard." We cannot imagine what the Grange has ever done that it should now be accused of intending to fasten upon itself the blight of U'Renism. We fancy that the "good authority" mentioned by our prophetic contemporary is located in a certain law office in Oregon City and that the aforesaid "good authority" is inspired more by hope than by conviction. Most certainly there is not the slightest ground for believing that a vote which stood more than two to one in opposition to abolishment of the Senate last November will be so thoroughly reversed in the next election.

As on single tax the vote in 1912 on the abolishment of the Senate disclosed the decline of U'Renism in Oregon. The question was squarely presented then, for, although it was a new frill to proportional representation, previously rejected, the abolishment of the Senate held first place in the title of the measure. In the preceding election, that of 1910, Mr. U'Ren had presented proportional representation without the novelty of dispensing with one house of the Legislature. It was defeated by a vote of 44,366 to 27,031.

But Mr. U'Ren was not satisfied. He could not believe that the people would turn down the brilliant scheme of reforming legislative procedure by a mathematical change in the method of determining who were elected members. He decided that disapproval was caused by the increase of salaries provided in the amendment. So last year proportional representation was presented with Legislators' per diem fixed at $3. He also provided for a reduction in membership of the Legislature by proposing the abolishment of the Senate.

But the Oregon voters responded by defeating the proposal by an even larger vote than in 1910. Six thousand voters who favored proportional representation with two houses of the Legislature and an increase in pay all around turned against the amendment. Only 31,020 in all voted for it as against more than 37,000 at the preceding election, while the negative vote jumped from 44,336 to 71,183. By comparing totals it is disclosed that the falling off of affirmative votes was in excess of 14 per cent.

What caused this decline of support for proportional representation? Was it loss of faith in U'Ren? Was it a clearer view of the principle involved? Or was it the attack on the existence of the Senate? It is probable that it was a little of all three. Some day when the stigmas of outside interference, and professional and pernicious activity in initiative lawmaking are removed from the plan, abolishment of the Senate may again get as high as 25 or 30 per cent of the vote of Oregon. But we doubt if such an intelligent organization as the Grange will next year burden itself with a policy that has been lately so thoroughly discarded and discredited. Certainly and emphatically the record of the last Legislature has added no weight to the scheme. It would be no more successful now than a movement to abolish the Fourth of July.

The conferences on the tariff bill between President Wilson and members of the House and Senate committees which will have charge of the bill convey the impression that all objections from members of the majority party in either house are to be met before the measure is introduced. A three-fold machine is to "jam it through." This beats the methods of "Czar" Cannon and "Boss" Aldrich. Each at least had his separate organization, acting independently, and they gave opportunity for a test of strength on amendments in open session. The three-fold Democratic machine seems to have lined up the votes in advance, after ascertaining what each member will stand for, and framed the bill accordingly. If this machine be well oiled, it might dispose of the tariff in a month and spend the Summer in chopping off the many heads of the money trust and reforming the currency. Before this Congress ends its life it may make Mr. Cannon look like a mere tyro as a Czar.

In one respect the President appears to have carried too far his desire to avoid display. This is in dispensing with the motorcycle policemen who formerly followed the White House automobile. These men were employed not merely for the sake of ostentation, but to proptect the life which is for the time the most valuable to the Nation and which, by reason of his station, is a mark for the assaults of the cranks and for the disappointed who imagine a grievance against him. The Nation has an interest in his safety. Even were this not so, the Nation has placed him in a position where he is exposed to danger and should guard him. This is a matter in which the President should yield his personal wishes to the exigencies of his position.

Now and then the joke is on the railroads and the man who has been the victim of tariffs that passeth understanding of the ordinary mortal has moments of hilarity. For example: There is the line whose clerk made the mistake of undercharging a shipper 83 cents; the delinquent employe can be haled on the carpet by the company and the latter is liable to punishment by Uncle Sam for cutting rates and must eat out of his hand in consequence. There are boundless joys for the man whose bump of humor is developed.

An Idaho potato-grower has learned that he receives less than 40 per cent of the price to the consumer of his product in many parts of the country. There should be nothing startling in the knowledge. The market is at a distance and freight rates are not low; every handling costs, winding up with the retailer, who takes all the risk and must make most.

The allies defy the powers, which means intervention, which likewise means a hand in carving the pie, which also is what the powers long have awaited. The animal with the prehensile tail has no monopoly in raking out the chestnuts.

The county that is out of debt is not to be envied. Debt under normal conditions is a stimulus to healthy activity. Without it a county can become stagnant, and stagnancy is prejudicial to the best asset—good roads.

Since a surgical operation failed to cure Jean Thurber of kleptomania, Los Angeles might try a term in a reformatory or a good spanking. In too many cases kleptomania is a term used by a thief who has been caught.

If the health authorities deprive the women of San Francisco of the opportunity to buy Australian meat cheap because it has no tags, the women are very likely to tag somebody at the next election.

Tank cars with Bull Run water would be a blessing at Dayton, but are an impossibility. A better way would be to move to Oregon, where blessings are manifold and dangers minimized. There is room for all.

The Nampa potato-growers' experiment in learning what the consumer paid for his crop shows us that the high cost of living is mainly the high cost of not co-operating.

Efforts of American suffragists to induce President Wilson to intercede for their suffragette sisters who are in English prisons may cause him to regret his election.

Little drops of water and little grains of sand make a bad combination in these times of moist weather in Western Oregon.

Discovery is made that the riverfront is unsanitary. Was ever the riverfront of a large city otherwise?

Having worn out several generations of partners, J. P. Morgan seems to be wearing out also.

President McCrea quit work and soon died. Perhaps that is what ails Mr. Morgan.

Tomorrow is the great day of this Nation. Let everybody prepare to "bite."

There's a Laugh Coming.

New York World.

"What is your opinion of the two leading comic papers of England and America?"

"Well, I don't think there's much life in Punch, but there's lots of 'punch' in Life."

LESSON FROM VILLARD EXCURSION

Frontier's Possibilities Not Always Plain to Man From Finished East.

PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. C. M. Clark deserves our hearty thanks for the many good things which he said in his address, particularly the importance of bringing together producer and consumer; the undesirability of boom prices for some classes of real estate, and his exhortation against prodigality of expenditure in the development of unworthy outside properties and of overbuilding.

His remarks relative to the meager dividend paying ability of some kinds of investments, while theoretically correct and the expression of a thoroughly trained business man, are subject to some modification in a new and rapidly developing country.

The best and easiest explanation of my meaning may be found by reference to some incidents connected with the celebrated Villard excursion and reception in 1883.

Mr. Villard was a journalist. His habits of thought and mental training were not those of a systematic financier, but he had a clear and comprehensive vision of the ultimate greatness of the Northwest. He had, with the aid of brokers and his individual acquaintance, succeeded in floating the Northern Pacific bonds. He had other enterprises in view and wished to impress upon the great capitalists of the East and of Europe the wonderful resources of this new country. He invited large numbers to accompany him on the excursion which should witness the driving of the last spike.

All went well until they left St. Paul and Minneapolis. They had never seen a new country and had no conception of its possibilities. To them it seemed a barren waste. Very naturally, the question arose in their minds: "Where will the business come from to pay dividends?" At various telegraph stations messages were sent to agents back home to sell Northern Pacific stocks. By the time Portland was reached the finances of that road were topping. It was freely asserted in certain quarters that one main transcontinental line was all that could be made to pay.

The large number of such lines at the present confute the predictions of some of the best financiers of that day. Notwithstanding the disastrous "blind-pool" that swallowed up many millions of Portland's capital, from 1887 to 1892, we had exceptionally prosperous times.

All this goes to prove that the man brought up in a finished country cannot at once apprehend the potential possibilities of the frontier.

I wish to praise the candor of our guest and commend the good advice he gave, which should be put into practice. Let us be cautious, but not get too much alarmed nor grow timid if our finances do not coincide with those of the older states.

Mr. Clark views our affairs from a different angle to us. We should heed his warnings to the extent that the largest and best results may come from his excellent address.

No wonder Mr. Clark viewed with amazed admiration the vigorous endeavor of the railroad managements operating up the Willamette Valley. They are headed by men long conversant with the growth and development of new districts.

Neither railroad builders nor other investors should be deterred from making good investments, though the promise of immediate realization of dividends is not present.

As I have no addition to the city nor am I trying to make sales on commission, I feel that I can speak plainly without being accused of the prompting of self interest. J. D. LEE.

Measuring Board Feet.

PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—Noticing quite a discussion going on in The Oregonian in regard to the amount of board feet in a stick of timber 12x12 at one end, 6x6 at the other and 40 feet long, and also noticing that some have the answer correct and others not, but all having rather a complicated rule for solving the example, I will, if you will allow me space, solve the problem in the simplest way imaginable and give the rule for all lumber measure. A stick 12x12 at one end, 6x6 at the other has an average measurement of 9x9, which, multiplied together, is 81. Divided by 12 is 6¾, multiplied by 40, the length, and the answer is 270 board feet in the stick.

The rule is to multiply width and thickness together, divide by 12, then multiply by the length to get the number of board feet in the piece. Thus, a board 2x12x16 has 32 board feet.

F. A. YOUNG.

The correspondent's rule is simple, but the trouble with it is that it does not produce the right answer. A tallyman, who makes measuring of timber his business, gave a correct rule in The Oregonian Friday. It is the rule under which timber is bought and sold by lumbermen who put exactness into their business. The process of determining the cubic contents of a stick of the dimensions given is founded on exact scientific principles which it is idle to dispute.

Ten-Hour-Day Law.

GRANTS PASS, Or., March 28.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me what was done with the 60-hour-a-week bill. If passed, when will it go into effect? How will it affect gold and silver mills operating 24 hours per day?

A SUBSCRIBER.

The Legislature passed an act to become effective June 3, the salient features of which provide "no person shall be employed in any mill, factory or manufacturing establishment in this state more than ten hours in any one day, except watchmen and employes when engaged in making necessary repairs, or in cases of emergency where life or property is in imminent danger. Provided, however, employes may work overtime not to exceed three hours in any one day, conditioned that payment be made for said overtime at the rate of time and one-half the regular wage." These provisions probably apply to gold and silver mills.

Peerless Route.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—I have been reading with interest the many names suggested as a nickname for the Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railroad.

The name "Peerless Route" occurred to me as being especially appropriate for it. The first part of the syllable (peer) being the initial letters of the present name—Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railroad.

The meaning of the name is obvious to all—without an equal.

A NATIVE DAUGHTER OF OREGON.

"The Peerless Route."

DALLAS, Or., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—The word "Peerless" is an enlargement of the initials of the Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railway, which initials spell the word "peer." It is a name that may be worth considering.

The trade-mark should be a tiny sketch of a young man, dressed to represent a "peer," comfortably "peering" out of a window of a modern electric car upon a Western landscape.

Peerless means "without equal."

A. P. OWINGS.

WHY THE EARTH WILL TIP OVER

It Is Providence's Plan for Resting Exhausted Soils, Says Clairvoyant.

PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—The fact that two total strangers predict the same things is or should be enough to convince any skeptical editor that things are about to happen. From the tone of the bright little paragraph in a recent number of this paper I infer that the editor was giving me the laugh.

But, Mr. O'Hennessy wants to hog the whole show, as it were, which is not only unkind, but joyously absurd. I myself am broadminded, inasmuch as to recognize the fact that there are others who are endowed.

I thank him for replying, however, as it gives me the opportunity to correct myself. In saying that the earth will tip I made use of the figurative. What I wished to make known was that the axes of the earth would shift. They, the poles, may shift one-fourth the circumference of the earth, bringing the North Pole to the Equator. On the other hand, they may not shift so far. For instance, the North Pole may shift to Europe or China. The South Pole would naturally shift, too; and the Equator, by all the laws of nature and common sense, would take up its position between them.

Because the poles shift it does not necessary follow that the Equator, finding itself lonesome, will go perambulating around the universe until some mercenary gent captures it and puts it in a dime museum.

I said, and maintain, that the earth is going to undergo a change like that which has been described. The poles will bloom and be inhabited as science proves they have been in the dim past. Probably that is the plan of the omniscient God of resting the soil of the earth. This has been predicted years ago. Also, the raising of the United States flag by the Mexicans I predicted and wrote and sealed one year ago.

I marvel at the ignorance of the sordid, earthly beings who tread this earth. Yea, I am dismayed. They think that a prophet does not exist outside of Biblical history. Still, I am aware that the land is flooded with fakers who impose on the public; and I ask no one to believe me. And lastly, I have never made one cent out of my divine inspirations. Be prepared is the command of

DEVINE CLARAVOYANT.

WHY DO YOUNG MEN GO WRONG?

One Father Blames Himself and Warns Parents Against Parsimony.

PORTLAND, Or., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—I am the father of four sons and am writing that no other father may make the mistake I did. We lived on a small farm near a small town. There were eight children in my family, four boys and four girls. Our farm was worth about $4000. When the oldest was grown he said he did not like farm work and asked me for $250 to start in business. I rebuked him severely and told him I had no money to throw or give away. He tried to start for himself and having no money of course he failed. He came to me again for money, this time he asked for $100, and I again refused. He left for the city penniless or nearly so. Three days later I was dumbfounded to pick up a newspaper and on the front page was a paragraph reading that my boy was arrested for robbery.

About three years later my second son asked me for $530 to learn the drug business in the city. I refused to let him go, but he went anyhow. Two years later he asked me for $500 to start in business. I refused, but later gave him $50 at 8 per cent interest. Later he asked me for $100, but as he had not paid the first back I refused, as I had no respect for the no idea if he is dead or alive. I never saw him again.

Later my youngest son also got tired of farming. He also wanted to go to the city. He asked for money and I refused as I had no respect for the trade he chose to learn. So he ran away at the age of about 18 years, and to my sorrow he became a drunkard and drug fiend. He was brought home and after I had spent about $400 for medicine he went insane.

Now when it is too late I see what a selfish fool I was. I supposed that I needed the dross we call gold more than I needed my boys. My heart is breaking, for I know I am responsible for my boys' downfall. Many fathers like myself let their boys go into the world without money to start right. Fathers, we are responsible for our children coming into the world and are responsible for them. I hope I can help some other man to see the right, that he may not spend his old age in vain regrets. B. E. RIGGS.

Figuring Board Feet.

GOLD HILL, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—Commercial rules for sawing irregular timbers are designed to charge extra pay for extra work, and when compared with strictly mathematical measurements give rise to discordant results, as instanced in this simple example:

Draw a diagram of one side of a square pyramid, six inches square at the top and 61.2 at the base. By actual measurement it will be 9 inches square half way between the ends.

This will give mean area for such pyramid of 81 square inches and board contents of 270 square feet. Mr. Scott's result (280) is not correct, and his solution is a "much ado about nothing." Join four such pyramids, ends reversed, and the result is a square stick 18 inches on each side and 40 feet long, containing 1080 board feet. One-fourth of this is 270. "Figures won't lie," that is, always providing you don't make 'em. J. R. KENDALL.

CORVALLIS, Or., Mar. 29.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian I notice the question of R. F. Martindale has been incorrectly answered.

This is a simple rule which will hold good at any time. First obtain the average dimensions of the stick, multiply the dimensions, width, thickness and length, and divide by 12. In this question the stick is 6 by 6 at one end, 12 by 12 at the other and 40 feet long. The average dimensions are 9 by 9. Hence the stick is equivalent to nine boards one inch thick nine inches wide and 40 feet long. The piece of timber contains 270 board feet. E. E. GRUBE.

Mr. Kendall, Mr. Grube and Mr. S. N. Willard who gave the same formula a few days ago, may conduct an interesting experiment by cutting the imaginary stick in two in the middle and ascertaining the number of board feet in each piece by their rule.

Aplying their formula the 20-foot piece that is 6 by 6 at one end and 9 by 9 at the other contains 93.75 board feet. The 20-foot stick that is 9 by 9 at one end and 12 by 12 at the other contains 183.75 board feet. The total in the two is 277.5 feet. It would be interesting if they would explain why a solid stick that contains 270 board feet contains 7½ feet more when sawn in two in the middle.

A Chair of Louis of France.

Liverpool Post.

A Philadelphia lawyer and connoisseur was describing some of his experiences in search of curio. "I once entered a shop," he said, smiling, "and the salesman pointed out to me a dilapidated chair. 'That there chair, sir,' he said, impressively, 'belonged to Louis Crosseye, King of France.' 'Louis Crosseye?' said I. 'Why, there's no such person.' 'Oh, yes, there is, sir,' said the salesman and he showed me a ticket marked 'Louis XI.'"

The Season's Omen

By Dean Collins.

There is something astir in the season,
There are omens afloat in the air,
And back of it all there's a reason
That omens should be afloat there.
It has been related,
And earnestly stated,
And late information is coming to hand,
Of an omen specific,
Of how a terrific
Rainstorm scattered angleworms over the land.

I claim to be wiser than no men,
No prophetic powers I claim,
And yet, with regard to this omen—
Lo, I can interpret the same.
If 'twas not a brainstorm,
This tale of the rainstorm
That came, bearing angleworms, falling and swishing,
The wonder, most clearly
Proclaims that it's nearly
The season when men should slip out and go fishing.

And no normal fellow's caught napping;
His old reel with oil he anoints,
His split bamboo rod he's re-wrapping
On all of its tapering joints;
Once more he produces
His stock of excuses
For leaving his office and all duties dishing,
For who can help falling
Who hears the sweet calling
Of trout streams, when opens the season for fishing?

Portland, March 16.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of March 31, 1888.

Walla Walla, March 30.—The subsidy of $100,000 given by citizens to Hunt for building a railroad is about collected, and very willingly; also right of way and depot privileges.

The Cowlitz River for several miles from its mouth is alive with seals.

United States Engineer, Captain Charles F. Powell, who has charge of the improvements at the mouth of the Columbia and Cascade Locks, will leave in about two weeks for Memphis.

Walter H. Dodd, son of Mr. Charles H. Dodd, of this city, who is now attending Amherst College, was recently awarded the Sawyer medal for excellence in general standing and physiology.

The old Bank of British Columbia property on Front street, near Oak, was purchased from Mrs. Lucy Meade a short time since by Elijah Corbett. Mr. Corbett contemplates tearing down the building and putting up a handsome three-story business block.

Work on the new railroad bridge is being prosecuted as rapidly as circumstances permit.

Within the next six months East Portland will be lighted by electricity. The contract has been let to the gas company.

Today for the first time The Oregonian is printed from stereotype plates, and for the first time since the fire of November, 1886, which destroyed the La Camas mills, upon paper of home manufacture. The event is celebrated by the assumption of a complete new dress of type.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 31, 1863.

Southwest Pass, March 15.—(By telegraph from Baton Rouge.)—Commodore Farragut, leading in the Hartford, attacked the Fort Hudson batteries last night with the fleet. The steamer Mississippi ran aground and was abandoned and burned.

Washington, March 23.—Farragut safely made the passage up the Mississippi in the frigate Hartford, flagship, with the whole fleet.

Port Royal, March 14.—Jacksonville, Fla., was taken on the 10th by the negro brigade.

Washington, March 23.—The War Department has received the rolls of all the regiments in the Army of the United States, which show the number of absentees and deserters to be 125,000.

Murfreesboro, March 21.—An expedition which went in the direction of Liberty, Tenn., was attacked yesterday morning by about 2500 rebels under the guerilla Morgan, at Milton, on their return. Colonel Hall, perceiving that the enemy outnumbered him two to one, fell back to the crest of a hill. The rebels made most stubborn attacks, but were repeatedly driven back with fearful slaughter. At 2 P. M. Morgan withdrew, but in half an hour returned, reinforced. He made another attack, but was beaten back and withdrew in great confusion.

Placerville, March 13.—Captain Standifer's company made their triumphant entry into our town yesterday afternoon, amid the prolonged cheering of the citizens. Their trip has been eminently successful, they having captured a considerable quantity of booty and placing hors du combat a number of Indians. They have brought in 15 scalps, and are certain that many more were killed or wounded.

The principal of the Portland public school desires to publicly thank Mr. J. Cohen, dealer in clocks, watches, jewelry, etc., on Front street, for his present to the public school of a beautiful clock.

Mr. L. W. Coe, U. S. Collector of Internal Revenue for Oregon, has appointed Mr. H. B. Parker Deputy Collector.

Overworking the Servant.

PORTLAND, March 28.—(To the Editor.)—I have read an editorial in The Oregonian on servant problems and wish to state a fact I myself experienced as a servant. I think there lies as much fault on servants as on mistresses, but the real difficulty of the mistress is in getting an efficient servant. The chief fault of a mistress is in the way she employs her servant. When a servant is really honest and willing to work, then the mistress will crowd her with more work than she can do. Thus the servant has to suffer for her honesty, while a servant less honest has to do less work than the honest one, so she will have easier times. A servant, though honest and willing to do the work at the beginning, will soon lose faith in her mistress, so she will become an incompetent servant. This is the point where the difficulty lies in getting competent servants.

HONEST SERVANT.

Still Another Answer.

SALEM, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—I have read the answers to the question of how many feet board measure in the stick 12 by 12 at base and 6 by 6 at top, and I do not think any of them correct, and send you my way of figuring sticks of this kind.

The area of the butt is 144 inches; area of top 36 inches; area of center (9 by 9) is 81 inches. The sum of the three areas divided by three, then multiply by 40 (the length), and divided by 12 gives 290 feet as the number of board feet.

GEORGE ARMSTRONG,
Carpenter.