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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1913.

OREGON'S CONSERVATION PLANS.

The attention of Gifford Pinchot, Walter L. Fisher and others, who have distorted conservation to mean reservation, is respectfully directed to the report of the Oregon Conservation Commission as embodying the true conception of what conservation means. It is particularly directed to these measures passed by the Legislature on recommendation of the Commission:

Proposed Constitutional amendment providing bond issue for construction of irrigation and power projects and developing entitled land.

Agricultural College extension work.

Water code, carrying use and conservation of water resources.

Topographic survey.

Study and investigation of water resources.

The Oregon commission intends now to turn its attention to study of the best methods of control and disposition of public lands and other public resources with a view to encouraging settlement, development and beneficial use; to investigation of obstacles placed in the way of homesteaders and of delay in opening to settlement agricultural land within National forests; and to evolution of some plan for making logged-off land productive.

The measures already passed in Oregon represent the Western idea of conservation, which puts use and development first, but makes them conform to the purpose of conservation. The Western idea is to use our water resources and encourage settlement and development of the public land, not to lock them up and frighten away settlers and capitalists.

The point where the Western idea conflicts with the Pinchot idea is on the subjects which the Oregon commission proposes to investigate. The Pinchot policy blocks settlement either on unreserved public land or in National forests. It halts timidly at undertaking the West Umatilla irrigation project, lest that improvement should not immediately prove a good investment. The Western policy would give every honest homesteader his patent and would open to farmers every agricultural tract in National forests.

The Pinchot policy is suspicious of the settler and welcomes evidence from special agents that he has not complied with the law. Being human, the special agent seeks that which his superiors seem to desire—evidence of fraud. The Western policy holds the settler to be honest until he is proved to be otherwise and would reward the special agent as much for finding settlers had complied with the law as for uncovering fraud. It would make him an impartial investigator rather than a detective striving to ferret out crime. The Western policy would hesitate no longer at beginning work on the West Umatilla project, knowing that in a few years it would vindicate itself as an investment.

The Oregon commission is composed of men who know Oregon, its people and the conditions under which they live and work. Secretary Lane, through his long residence in California and Washington, knows the Pacific Coast and therefore knows these conditions. Oregon looks to Mr. Lane to put the Western, not the Pinchot, idea in practice and to co-operate with the Oregon Conservation Commission and with like commissions from other states in the work of conservation and development combined.

COST OF THE BALKAN WAR.

Peace between Turkey and the Balkan States seems to be at hand, but it will find both contending powers in a pitiful plight. Their population decimated, their fields untilled, their treasuries empty, victors and vanquished alike must set about the work of rehabilitation. A generation may rise to maturity before the ravages of war are repaired, even in the victorious Balkan kingdoms. Turkey, with her population reduced by war and loss of territory, must prepare to pay debts with a revenue which, always showing a deficit, will hereafter be more inadequate than ever.

The Balkan States demand an indemnity to compensate them for their sacrifices, and well they may. Bulgaria alone, with a population of only 4,337,000, has lost 25,000 men killed in the prime of life, and as many more disabled or invalided. Payment of debts has been legally suspended since the war began; trade, industry and agriculture are at a standstill, and, unless the male population soon returns to the farms, no Spring crops will be sown. The nation must increase taxes to provide pensions of $2,000,000 a year for the families of the dead and disabled soldiers; to equip the army anew; to pay interest on the war debt; and to organize the conquered, desolated territory and enable its population to begin life anew. As with Bulgaria, so is it with Servia, Greece and Mentenegro.

The Balkan States should have an indemnity, according to the time-honored rule that the losers in war must pay for being whipped, but any attempt to extort money from Turkey is like trying to squeeze blood out of the proverbial turnip. Much of that country's revenue is already mortgaged to pay its existing debt, and its interest payments are far in arrears. Shorn of its best European territory and retaining only its Adriatic dominions and the corner of Europe around Constantinople, it will be even less able than now to carry its present debt, much less add to the load.

Comparatively small as are the nations directly engaged, the evil consequences of the Balkan war have been felt the world over. Russia and Austria have kept their armies mobilized for six months at great expense. Austria has been forced to borrow money, and her trade has been depressed by the disturbance on her southeastern border. In fear of a general war, Germany and France have enlarged their armies, and gold to an amount estimated at $300,000,000 has been hoarded in Europe. Consequent stringency in the money market has been felt most in Germany, but has extended to the United States, where investments have been restricted and new enterprises postponed.

All the world knows that, when peace is signed, it will be but a truce. Turkey's creditors must help her along with new loans in self-defense. That country, foreseeing a new onslaught from the Balkan States as soon as they have recruited their wasted energies, will fortify her restricted frontier for a last stand in Europe. The Balkan nations will borrow again and arm again with their minds set on driving the Turk from his last foothold on their side of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. The cost of war will be continued, in money though not in life, until the feud between cross and crescent is finally fought out.

WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

Just a short time ago there was industriously spread among the working people by opponents of the commission charter the statement that that document was the handiwork of "big business." Evidently this method of campaigning promises to produce results, for some of the advocates of the charter have begun using it. We are now vehemently told that the paving companies are opposed to the charter; that the public service corporations do not want it; that candidates for office who are fighting it are doing so for political prestige.

It is a cheap form of argument, except in one particular. It is valuable as indicating the need for submission of the commission issue in such form that the details may be readily grasped and at such time that the public mind is not distracted by contests over political offices. As the question now stands the people are invited to vote according to prejudice, that prejudice to be based on a "'tis too—'taint either" form of argument. Otherwise they may vote their faith in the sincerity and knowledge of John Smith, who says it is a good charter, or of Jim Jones, who says it is not.

It ought to be possible to formulate a commission charter the merits of which the ordinary voter can estimate for himself or can grasp with but little guidance. It also ought to be possible, after such a charter had been drafted, to get it before the voters, and all of them, without burying it piecemeal in a mass of irrelevant material. And once again, it ought to be possible to have the charter presented as a single issue—not as an incident of a campaign for office nor as a kite carrying a long tail of alternative amendments.

THE SENATORIAL BATHTUBS.

Many an old-time Democrat straying pensively through the splendors of the Capitol must often have wondered what the bathtubs were for in that sumptuous pile. He could account for the statues in the "Hall of Fame." They would naturally appear to his primitive fancy to be idols imported from Central Africa for the Senators to worship while they were seeking guidance as to their votes on important bills. The cast of features in most of those works of art would strongly confirm this belief. Even the National library would not be wholly unintelligible to the rural Democrat. Most of his kind have seen piles of lawbooks in the office of the prosecuting attorney when brought to the county seat in connection with a missing chicken or a vanished pig.

But bathtubs would present to the genuine Democratic intelligence an insoluble mystery. What could such misshapen receptacles be made for? They are too large for wood boxes and too small for corn cribs, and it would never dawn upon the Democratic imagination that there could be any other use for them. The voter of that persuasion performs his semi-weekly ablutions in a tin cup. The annual baths which he took on Fourth of July mornings when he was a boy he has of course long since forgotten.

Hence very naturally great opposition arose in the party to the bathtubs in the Capitol. The queer objects could be defended neither on the ground of ornament nor use. Nor was it possible to carry them back home and sell them. The freight would have been prohibitive. Bowing to this party sentiment, the Democratic majority in the Senate has acknowledged that there is no real defense for the bathtubs and has ordered the removal of all those at the Capitol. From this time onward the legislation offered the country is not only to have all the primitive vigor of Andrew Jackson's day, but it will smell the same and wear the same robust tinge.

But there is still one thing lacking to the complete Democratization of the Capitol and the removal of the bathtubs will make room for it. That thing is a flowing fount of old bourbon.

WE'LL ALL BE THERE.

Long before what we call civilization—when caverns were man's chief abode, when leaves, bark and skin his clothing—even in that remote time no doubt men, and women too, rejoiced in feats of skill, strength and endurance. Human nature is old and rock-ribbed in its appreciation of tests of athletic superiority. It is a taste that will never pass away so long as the public knows the tests are real. So this afternoon we shall go to Recreation Park to see two baseball teams struggle in a contest in which each team will exercise all its strength, all its cunning and all its skill to worst the other—but in a manly, clean and honest way.

In the lack of trickery and artifice lies the popularity of baseball. It is genuine sport. It is freer from the sway of misused money than any contest that ever obsessed a people or a Nation. We are proud to call it the great American sport, for it has led to nothing but good.

We like the game principally, then, because it is "square" and clean and because there has never been a suspicion of winning or losing games by dishonest methods. It has been kept out of the hands of the crook and the gambler. What little money is now bet on the outcome is bet contrary to law and custom, in an underhanded manner, and these small sums are growing smaller and smaller every year.

To be a good ball player the devotee must lead a clean and wholesome life. He must be of regular habits, quick of thought, clear of mind, fleet of foot and of rapid action in limb and body. Do not those qualities go far toward the making of good citizens?

All honor to our National game; all honor to its promoters. May our boys today whang the tar out of the ball and pile up runs enough to make Los Angeles feel like a Chinese cash in a bucket of gold eagles!

WHY BELGAN SOCIALISTS STRIKE.

The Belgian strike against plural voting has come at about the same time as the British government's bill for the abolition of that system. Plural voting is based on the theory that the vote represents property or intelligence, not the person casting it. It thus conflicts with the theory of manhood suffrage, of one-man-one-vote, for which radicals of all nations have always contended and which prevails in the United States.

In Belgium each man over 25 who has resided one year in his commune has one vote. On attaining the age of 35, being married or a widower with legitimate offspring and paying five francs direct taxes, he gets a second vote. Qualifications of property, official status or university diplomas secure him two additional votes. Thus it happened that in 1904 the number of voters was 1,581,649, but they cast 2,467,966 votes. Protests of Socialists against the system secured its modification in 1900 by adopting a plan of proportional representation, which secures minorities seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

In Great Britain plural voting is based on property rights. A man who owns property in six electoral divisions casts one vote in each. The voting in that country is spread over about two weeks in different constituencies, this practice enabling the plural voter to cast all his votes, but even then landholders are often kept busy traveling to avoid being partially disfranchised.

The controversy in Belgium is complicated by religious questions, the Socialist demand being opposed by the clericals, who fear being swamped by the radical workmen of the cities, who have generally cast off the restraints of the church and would deprive it of state aid.

THE ELECTION OF THE POPE.

The dangerous illness of the Pope naturally turns men's thoughts to the method of choosing his successor. In the earliest times the head of the Christian congregation at Rome was informally selected for his intimate relations with the immediate followers of the Savior. One who had listened to the Disciples or even heard their teaching at second or third hand was esteemed for his sanctity and it was the most natural thing in the world to give him the highest position in the congregation. Afterward a species of elective system arose, though it was always a little vague and tended to be tumultuous. The real electors of the Pope were the clergy of Rome, but the neighboring Bishops presided over their voting and their choice was not deemed quite valid until it had been ratified by the people. But this last ceremony was noisy and with time grew more and more ineffectual. It made intrigues so easy that occasionally more than one Pope was chosen. Several such instances are mentioned by historians, one dating back to the early part of the third Christian century.

Perhaps the worst effect of the street tumults which attended the choice of a Pontiff by the people and clergy was the excuse they gave for the intervention of the secular power. The Emperors gradually asserted a right to settle disputes over the elections and in 418, when Boniface and Eulalius both claimed the papal throne, the civil authority stepped in and decided in favor of Boniface. This happened again and again. By the year 532 the right of the imperial court to decide disputes had developed into a right to ratify the election itself. This was exercised, for example, by the Emperor Justinian, the great codifier of the Roman law, who actually extorted a large fee for giving his consent to the seating of the Pope who had been regularly elected. Charlemagne and some of his successors enjoyed the same authority over the church. Of course this practice led to venality of the worst description. The various factions intrigued against one another whenever there was a vacancy in the Vicariate of Christ, resorting to bribery and scandal quite as if the prize had been an earthly throne. The encroachment of the secular power went so far that in the year 1146 Pope Clement II formally admitted that the Popes could be elected and consecrated only in the actual presence of the Emperor.

When the famous Hildebrand rose to power he altered this state of things. To a man of his formidable character the subjection of the church to the empire was intolerable. Three successive Popes were advanced to the sacred chair by Hildebrand before he himself was chosen, and in the interval he restored the canonical forms of the election, conceding only the imperial authority to ratify before the consecration of the Pope. The Bull In Nomine Domini, issued in 1059, initiated that long process of legislation which has fixed the procedure of the conclave as it now stands. By this bull the cardinal bishops were to choose the Pope, but their choice must be ratified by the clergy and people, though the latter ceremony was a mere form. Hildebrand's fortitude so impressed the spirit of the election that the imperial sanction to proceed with it was never asked after his time and by the Concordat of Worms in 1119 the German Emperor accepted the regulations of the Bull In Nomine Domini. This made the papacy itself formally independent of the secular powers, but of course it did not settle the vexed question of "investitures."

In the new electoral regulations which were promulgated in 1179 the clergy and people were not even mentioned. Their power had always been shadowy and now it disappeared altogether. The institution of the "Conclave" was framed to prevent the long delays which often ensued when the Cardinals undertook to choose a new Pope. In more than one instance there was an interregnum of two years or more when the world was deprived of a sovereign Pontiff while the electors wrangled over their choice. Pope Gregory X regulated the conclave by the "Constitution" known as Ubi Periculum. The cardinals were to be strictly secluded while they were engaged in the election, they were to live in common, not even separate cells being allowed them, and many severities were imposed to hasten their choice. They had no communication with the outer world and their food was passed to them through a window, such meager food as they were allowed. After the third day they got only one dish at each of their two meals and after the fifth day nothing came through the window but bread and water with a little wine. In substance these regulations are still followed, though their unnecessary hardships have been softened somewhat.

Pope Pius IV decreed that the cardinals must vote daily. The method was interesting in view of some modern "innovations" as to the ballot for public officers. The voting was in two parts. First came a sort of "eliminating primary." Then the cardinals threw their votes to the candidates who had stood highest in the first ballot. At present they vote twice a day, morning and evening. The people waiting in the street for election news are notified by a thick smoke if there has been no choice. The ballots are burned, and to make the smoke dense a little straw is added to the fire. This accounts for the expression "straw vote." Thus the regulations for the choice of a sovereign Pontiff gradually grew up through the centuries. They were codified by Pius X in 1904, but no important changes were made. The formalities have been the same in all essential particulars since they were fixed by the Bull Decet Romanum Pontificum in the year 1622.

The manner of presenting the commission charter has been bungled. The voters have been denied a practical means of independent study of what they are asked to enact as the city's fundamental law. The voters who think it safe to rely solely upon their confidence in this or that man who publicly expresses an opinion on the charter and the voters who are prone to listen to corporation baiters may be numerous, but they are not great enough in number to settle the issue if every elector votes. If permitted to settle the issue it will be but chance if they settle it right.

The evolution of the Chinese government has now reached the stage where ours was just before the Constitutional Convention met. China's constitutional convention has assembled to frame a new charter of freedom and its work ought to be of the best, inasmuch as several members are graduates of American colleges. They have been wise enough to engage an American as "special adviser." He is Professor Goodnow of Columbia University.

The Chicago schools are going to have the benefit of a "dean of girls" in each building, just like the co-educational colleges. Her duty will be to look after the manners and morals of her charges. This would be an excellent plan even if all the girls had good homes. Since many of them have but miserable apologies for homes, it is doubly promising. It is assumed, of course, that the deans will be able to give what the homes lack.

Maeterlinck, the dramatist, is not so wrapped up in his dreams and visions as to overlook practical affairs. If his frankly expressed sympathy with the Belgian strikers is unwise it still shows that his shadowy plays have not withdrawn his heart from the distress of the living world. His imaginary characters are often too elusive to be fixed by the mind, but his sympathy dwells with men of flesh and blood.

Edward S. Smith, of Warren, O., who goes to jail rather than pay a fine of $39.70, somewhat resembles John Hampden, who suffered imprisonment rather than pay ship money, but, being a Socialist, he is far from being one of the "mute, inglorious Hampdens," of whom the poet sang.

All women will learn, as have the Daughters of the Revolution already, that high ideals are very apt to give way before political exigencies. It is very sad, but "the most elementary rules of common honesty" are often forgotten in political contests.

All the world admires coolness and courage in the moment of danger and the cheers which greeted King Alfonso when he foiled the would-be assassin will find an echo in every heart, whether it beat in the breast of republican or monarchist.

John Jacob Astor left $87,216,691. Some would consider themselves rich with the odd $216,691, others would be content with the odd $16,691, while some would not sneeze at the odd dollar.

Baseball players might not object to benefiting by the California compensation bill, except that it drags them down from their pedestal as supermen to the level of simple workingmen.

When it comes to luminosity, not to say perfect clarity of idea and execution, the demonstrators of the new cubist art have nothing whatever on our own local pro and anti-charter chart artists.

A milk can full of powder placed to "wreck" the Bank of England is attributed to the militant suffragettes, which surmise must be wrong. They would not use that kind of utensil.

New York plans a round Courthouse, 500 feet in diameter, to cost $10,000,000. That surely will house a Tammany ring.

John Burroughs, driving his own automobile and spilling himself on the road, is quite sportive in his old age.

Should Senator Jones' inheritance tax become law, there would be a sudden migration of great fortunes.

Evidently the unusually early Lenten period upset the calculations of this second run of smelt.

Lacking harmony, Idaho Democrats must pass the other bottle ere the pie is carved.

Portland is the best baseball town on the Coast. Keep up the reputation today.

The I. H. C. cord factory is going to Germany. Good-bye!

Meeting on the common level—at Twenty-fourth and Vaughan.

Free baths are inconsistent with Democratic simplicity.

The wail of the invalid: "What's the score?"

Say, School Board! does school keep or not?

"Showers" will not count today.

Hit it over the fence!

Slide! O-h, s-l-i-d-e!

Shut out the Angels!

"Kill the umpire!"

GARIBALDI CREW IS COMMENDED

Ex-Lifesaver Condemns Criticism of Rescuers at Mimi Wreck.

HOBSONVILLE, Or., April 13.—(To the Editor.)—I beg to say a few words in favor of the lifesaving crew of the Garibaldi station, on Tillamook Bay, who are receiving knocks and criticism in return for brave and good work, hardship and suffering in the public service. For over 36 hours, without sleep or rest, they worked bravely, intelligently and industriously on account of the wreck of the ship Mimi. Five times they tried, in the face of desperate odds, to reach or get a line to the wrecked ship, but were prevented by the elements. Finally, at low tide, they made the sixth attempt. Their boat was tossed about like a cork in the breakers, but they managed to reach the wreck, and, in spite of the fact that their boat was in danger of being smashed or swamped by the waves, which ran from 10 to 20 feet high, they boarded the wrecked ship, made a thorough investigation and brought away the four men who remained alive.

In the face of this, some would-be seamen and some land-lubbers, who were safe on shore, are saying the lifesavers did not do their duty. It is easy to stand ashore or behind some country store stove and tell what other people ought to do. Even Captain Westphal, one of those taken off alive from the wreck, is criticising those who saved him instead of being grateful for his life saved. But for the bravery, gallant and desperate work of Captain Farley and his men, Westphal would be among the lost. Still he offers criticism instead of gratitude. What kind of a man is he? It would appear that he is trying to divert attention from whatever blame can be attached to him for negligence in allowing the Mimi to be pulled into deep water without proper preparations, or that he does not know much about handling a surf boat in broken waters or of the conditions surrounding the wreck. He says the boat could have reached the wreck at any time, as the water was smooth on the inshore side. On account of the undertow and the suction caused by the waters rushing over and around the end of the ship, and the tangled rigging and yards, no boat could approach on the inshore side. Deep water seamen are alright on board a big ship in deep water, but a great many of them don't know much about handling a small boat.

Captain Farley showed good judgment in not allowing those volunteers the use of the life-service boat; otherwise the death list might be longer than it is. However, there is not much doubt but that those brave (?) volunteers would have done some great stalling and backed out if he had given them a chance. As it is, they can be making a big talk about what they would have done.

I have had a good many years' experience in deep-water service and also four years in the lifesaving service. I am well acquainted with the past work of the Garibaldi crew, and I will say that where Captain Farley and his men are not ready and willing to go, it is no use for anyone else to try. Knowing that Captain Farley used good judgment in directing the work and that he and his men did all that human ability could do, and realizing the suffering and hardship they had to undergo, it makes me sore to learn that there are people who are so unappreciative, ungrateful or ignorant as to criticise them and say they did not do their full duty.

AXEL W. ANDERSON,
Ex-Lifesaver.

END OF WARFARE IS FORESEEN

Lafayette Man Pits Ideals Against Facts in Argument.

LAFAYETTE, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—Replying to an editorial in The Oregonian of April 5, I beg to take issue with you on the question of peace vs. armament of nations. In this editorial you say "These are beautiful sentiments, but what are the facts? There have been more wars among civilized nations in the last 20 years than in any like period for generations."

Granting this statement, it argues nothing in favor of war, but, on the contrary, becomes a stronger argument in favor of its abolition. The nation is the individual multiplied. If you had three free-for-all fights in your neighborhood last week you would not argue that you ought to have four next week; on the contrary, if you were a peaceful citizen, you would be thoroughly ashamed of the record and do your best to prevent a repetition of such disgraceful acts. The law is emphatic in its insistence that physical force shall not be the law of the individual; how then can it justify the nation that resorts to that?

Further on in the same article you say "there were issues to be settled that could only be settled by force, and the weaker were beaten in each case, regardless of the abstract rights of the controversy." While this is largely true it is one of the strongest impeachments of modern governments. They set up a standard of right for their citizens but they are governed by the crude and cruel law of force, abandoned ages ago by the individual.

The time is at hand when the nations of earth can no longer set up one standard for the individual and another for the government. Law is law, and if it be just and equitable it must apply with equal force to all. How can we expect that our people shall respect and obey a law that the government itself sets aside on the slightest pretense. The inference that to throw away the big stick is equal to notifying the burglars they have nothing to fear is equal to saying that all nations are burglars and can only be kept straight by force. This I do not believe. Given an opportunity the common sense of the majority will manifest itself in international law, just as much as in state or national law. Might is not always right, and if ever the nations of earth are to rise to the level of the individual conscience, applied co-operatively, it must adopt a higher standard than that of mere physical force.

JOHN ALBERT HART.

DO NOT CONDEMN LIFESAVERS.

Suspension of Judgment on Conduct at Mimi Wreck is Asked.

Tillamook Headlight.

Don't be too hasty in criticising Captain Farley and the lifesaving crew. The captain, at the wreck of the Argo, showed that he was no coward, for with a broken arm he struggled in the breakers for over an hour and saved the life of Mrs. W. C. King. The snapshot man is of the opinion that Captain Farley is the best judge of what the small lifeboat was capable of doing when the breakers rose 20 feet over the unfortunate vessel, with strong undercurrents and wreckage to contend with. It is easy enough for those on shore to criticise, but we cannot believe that Captain Farley and his gallant little crew lost heart. Had the frail lifeboat met a like fate that happened to the lifeboat that was crippled with a wave striking it when it went to the assistance of the Argo, it would have added another catastrophe to the deplorable accident on Sunday. Under the circumstances, do not be too ready to criticise Captain Farley and the lifesaving crew until an investigation is held by those whose are well informed by experience what a small lifeboat can do under certain weather conditions. Those who are responsible for the loss of life and the loss of the vessel and the sufferings of those who were rescued are those who undertook to haul a large vessel, light and top heavy, right into the breakers in the dead of the night, with no precautions taken to save life if anything miscarried. In proof of this the three mates who would not stay with the vessel, but want ashore on the stern line showed that they saw what was going to happen as soon as the vessel reached the breakers.

LET PUBLIC COMMISSIONS AGREE

Dock and Port Commissions Have Common Interest, Says Mr. Hewett.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—The Portland Dock Commission has lately criticised the Port of Portland Commission; these two bodies are both working for the improvement of conditions for vessels coming to this port and, acting in harmony, can better and much more promptly accomplish the part allotted to each than by either standing aloof from and antagonizing the other.

The Dock Commission has been busy for two years with preliminary arrangements and should now be ready to give good evidence of constructive ability in making proper use of the authorized bond issue of $2,500,000.

Public docks equipped primarily for the quick discharge and loading of vessels would be appreciated by the Hamburg-American and Royal Mail steamship lines (the two largest steamship companies in the world), who are about to begin operating from Portland to the Orient. Such a dock or docks would probably influence the steamship companies in permanently maintaining the service from here, but unfortunately the docks are still in the paper stage. When the Port of Portland began operations vessels drawing over 17 feet could not reach Portland during the low water period. Now steamers of the above mentioned lines drawing up to 27 feet can safely reach Portland from Astoria at any time of the year and as cheaply (owing to the Port of Portland's towing service) as they can enter the Puget Sound ports.

There is little time left for building docks to be ready when urgently needed and it is probable the public, with very few exceptions, would be better pleased if the Dock Commission devoted its whole energy to securing these dockage facilities in place of attending to other matters that might well be left to the proper attorneys. The Port Commission is meeting a condition in wasting no time in dredging for an anchorage basin, but if that work is to be delayed until waterfront titles are decided Portland's shipping business may by that time have been diverted to other channels and further dredging rendered unnecessary, and in that case the question of waterfront ownership would be of minor importance.

This is only my individual view of the subject, and is expressed because of my practical experience as a wheat shipper for 23 years, my connection with the building of the first dredge owned by the City of Portland and with the securing and operating of the Portland Tug Boat Company's tug "Pioneer," in all of which I found that the way to do things was just to do them.

HENRY HEWETT.

SELF-TAUGHT MEN AND OTHERS

Lack of Schooling Usually Viewed as a Misfortune.

M'MINNVILLE, Or., April 10.—(To the Editor.)—There is an old saying that "if the shoe fits you, wear it." A correspondent from Dunsmuir, Cal., has found a shoe that fits him, but has put it on the wrong foot.

In a recent letter it was not my purpose to "judge hundreds of self-taught men," but my criticism was directed at those who criticise the public school as a sort of worse than useless institution and schoolteachers in general as a set of visionary theorists. I have high regards for all self-taught men, the most of whom deplore their lack of schooling as a misfortune rather than boast of it as a virtue.

The efficacy of the public school is demonstrated by the fact that the most practical solution of the problem about the tapering stick of timber was given by a schoolboy in Astoria and a schoolgirl in Oregon City. I do not except the solution given by The Oregonian, which was scientific, but complex.

The suggestion to "license" employes is not altogether without precedent. The boys and girls of Chicago must graduate from the grammar school and get their "work certificates" before they are eligible for employment. As for teachers, they have been under a system of "license" for these many years and do not enjoy any "privilege" which is not the result of merit.

Your correspondent says that his work "involves problems of a nature which no public school touches upon—"so far as I know." We judge that is not very far. In this judgment we are judging just one man and not 100, and it is not intended as a reflection on self-taught men in general, although he may be a discredit to the class.

It is a safe guess that all he knows about making allowances for expansion and contraction of material has been learned from someone who has been at school. The best engineers and architects are products of schools.

A pilot on the Mississippi River based his claim to being the best pilot, on the fact that he never hit the same snag twice, and he had hit all of them in the river. There are some self-taught men who owe all they know to the blunders they have made. Some can't learn any other way, and it is natural that such should not appreciate the value of the public school. So when your correspondent says, "I could not have learned this in a public school, even if I had ever attended one," I am not inclined to disagree with him.

L. H. VINCENT.

THE BRITISH LION'S TAIL PULLED

Instances in English History Recalled by Clatskanie Man.

CLATSKANIE, Or., April 10.—(To the Editor.)—On April 9 an article in The Oregonian challenges the attitude of certain European countries toward Montenegro. The writer exalts the Britons to the skies, saying that they love fair play and a square deal to everybody. He closes by accusing Austria of being a blot on the civilization of Europe. I wonder if he will hold that "taxation without representation" was fair play and a square deal to this beloved country. Were the British legions fair during the Indian mutiny?

Were the Britons fair toward the United States during the Civil War, and did they attempt fair play toward Venezuela not long ago, when President Grover Cleveland called them to time, and made them respect the Monroe Doctrine? Were the Britons right in the Alaska boundary dispute? Were the Britons honorable or right in the Boer War, when the Boers put a double twist in the lion's tail? I hope the exponent will hold that the Boers are eligible to as much consideration as the plucky little kingdom of Montenegro, as he terms it. Are the Britons right even now, assuming that Montenegro is not right? No, never! The proud boast of the Briton is: "The sun never sets on British dominion." "The English smoke never dies." Virgil said, (Penitus toto divisi orbe Britanni) ("The Britons, a people utterly separated from the rest of mankind").

MICHAEL KENNY.

Steps in the Courtship.

Exchange.

"So Kitty and Jack have quarreled?"

"Yes, she told him that when they meet again it must be as strangers."

"Jack doesn't seem to mind it much."

"Well, you see, he knows that if they meet as strangers she's bound to start a flirtation with him."

A Good Riddance.

Boston Transcript.

Young Man—You don't remember me, I see. I am the young man who eloped with your daughter a few years ago. Old Man—Well, what can I do for you? Young Man—I came back to offer you my congratulations, sir.

Baseba'l Babb'ing

By Dean Collins.

Who dares stick at work today?
Who dares stay at home?
Twenty thousand fans are out
Twenty thousand voices shout
To the heaven's dome.
There are mad fans and glad fans,
And fans of widest fame,
And few fans are new fans
Who rally to this game;
While the bands in triumph blare,
Countless voices rend the air;
Twenty thousand true believers,
Wear a hare's foot for the Beavers,
In the opening of the fray—
Who dares stick at home today?

Who dares stick at home today?
Blares the brazen trump;
Twenty thousand rooters growl;
Twenty thousand rooters howl
At his nobs, the "umps."
There are late games and great games
That keep one on the jump;
The old game and bold game
Is "balting of the ump."
Twenty thousand rooters game
Call the "ump" most any name,
Just to make it very clear
They are glad that he is here
At the op'ning of the play—
Who dares stick at home today?

Who dares stick at home today?
Who can help but hark
To the bellow of the mob
As it's getting on the job
At the baseball park?
There are mild scenes and wild scenes
And scenes that stir the soul,
And glorious scenes, uproarious scenes,
But, take them as a whole,
The most exciting one, I ween,
Out of ev'ry sort of scene,
Is where twenty thousand boosters,
Grandstand bugs and bleacher rooters,
Watch the op'ning of the play—
Who dares stick at home today?

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of April 15, 1888.

Salem, April 14.—The Marion County Republican central committee met in Salem today at the call of Chairman Burnett and made arrangements for the campaign. The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the chairman of the Republican state central committee be requested to spare no effort to secure the services of Hon. George H. Williams to canvass the state."

Salem, Or., April 14.—The Oregon & California Railroad depot, situated about a mile from the business portion of town, burned to the ground today.

The East Side—The largest political meeting so far in the campaign was held in Hall & Stott's Hall last night by the Central Republican Club. John H. Hall, chairman, called the meeting to order. Professor Bullock sang as a solo "The Star-Spangled Banner." Mr. H. H. Northup, Mr. W. T. Hume and Judge Watt addressed the meeting.

The new baseball grounds on the property of Clinton & McCoy will be opened this afternoon free for everybody.

Gus Strube in taking medicine yesterday got hold of a bottle of ammonia by mistake and took a mouthful, but discovered the error in time.

The fund for advertising Portland now aggregates $1800 a month or $21,600 a year, and is growing every day.

The Taylor-Street M. E. congregation have decided to improve the church by extending the gallery around the sidewalls and fit the same with opera chairs.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of April 15, 1863.

Our pen shakes while we write, for it seems to know it is becoming impertinent, and we beg pardon of our female friends, if we presume to suggest that obedience to fashion in the use of crinoline is slightly foolish and considerably dangerous.

Murfreesboro, April 6. — General Braggs' army is now living on bacon and cornmeal, four pounds of bacon and meal being allowed for one man per week.

Murfreesboro, April 6.—General Stanley with 2000 cavalry and one brigade of infantry left here on Thursday to capture Morgan's and Wheeler's command four miles southeast of Liberty. The battle was commenced by the Third and Fourth Ohio Cavalry going around to the rear, while the enemy changed their front. As soon as the cavalry charged the enemy broke and fled. The position of the enemy defeated Stanley's plan to surround and capture him.

The Sable Knights gave an excellent entertainment on Monday night. Tonight the performance will be repeated. Professor Myers will hold out at arm's length a 56-pound weight for two minutes.

The boats leaving here are crowded with passengers bound for the mines. Over two-thirds of those brought up from California on the last steamer have gone or are going to the John Day and Boise diggings.

The Hunt and Baker tested their relative speed on the trip up yesterday morning. The boats started even and landed at Vancouver within two minutes of each other, the latter ahead. Leaving Vancouver, the Hunt started first, but the Baker overhauled and passed her eight miles above that place, and kept ahead until she ran on a sandbank at Cape Horn. She got off without damage.

WOMAN VOTER MUCH PERPLEXED

First Steps in Politics Cause of Deep Anxiety.

PORTLAND, April 12.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of April 11 I find a letter addressed to you and signed a "Perplexed Voter." Me, too, have just received the franchise and think considerable of it, in an abstract way, and think its future value depends upon you worthy and prominent citizens to give it the right kind of a setting in which to grow good, wholesome fruit for practical use. I presume that there are thousands likewise perplexed, and the first step in politics—at least a chance to vote for someone worthy and honorable—will stimulate their endeavor toward future action.

I have been a constant subscriber to The Oregonian since coming to Portland, six years ago, and think my money well spent and in proportion to value received. But in consideration of what you represent in this locality, I take it that it is up to you to do your level best to encourage our best citizens to come forward now, even at personal sacrifice, and apply for these positions and give us a chance to cast our first vote for someone qualified mentally and morally. I am as keen to vote as anyone could be, but "I'll swan" if I'll vote for a professional politician—one whom the perplexed voter said was anxious for a position paying $25 a month before the citizens gave him $6000. There ought not to be that much difference between the class of men running. There are as good men as ever lived in this town of Portland, mentally and morally fit, and you won't have to have a candle search in dark corners.

A WOMAN VOTER.