# The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance:

(BY MAIL)

| | |
|---|---|
| Daily, Sunday included, one year | $8.00 |
| Daily, Sunday included, six months | 4.25 |
| Daily, Sunday included, three months | 2.25 |
| Daily, Sunday included, one month | .75 |
| Daily, without Sunday, one year | 6.00 |
| Daily, without Sunday, six months | 3.25 |
| Daily, without Sunday, three months | 1.75 |
| Daily, without Sunday, one month | .60 |
| Weekly, one year | 1.50 |
| Sunday, one year | 2.50 |
| Sunday and weekly, one year | 3.50 |

(BY CARRIER)

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|---|---|
| Daily, Sunday included, one year | $9.00 |
| Daily, Sunday included, one month | .75 |

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Offices—Verree & Conklin, New York, Brunswick building. Chicago, Steger building.

San Francisco Office—R. J. Bidwell Co., 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOV. 17, 1913.


### MR. WORCESTER'S WORD-PICTURE.

The picture which Dean C. Worcester paints of the Philippines as they would be under an independent government established now or 10 years hence is gloomy, but not overdrawn. It is a picture of Mexico as that country now is and, except in a few minor details, might be taken as an accurate description of that woe-stricken land.

In Mexico we now see brigandage, confiscation, murder and torture on all hands, and business flees before the black flag. In the Philippines the conditions closely parallel those which bred chaos in Mexico, once the restraining yoke of Diaz was shaken off. There are a small class of educated natives and a great mass of people grading down from the ignorant veneered with civilization to the unvarnished savage. As in Mexico, so in the Philippines, the cultured few have no conception of government except as a means by which they would exploit the ignorant many. Aguinaldo, who sold out to the Spaniards, but did not stay bought, is typical of the gente illustrada. These polished Filipino gentry object to exploitation by American capital that no obstacle may exist to exploitation by themselves. Liberty in their eyes is liberty for themselves to plunder and enslave the rest of the people, not liberty for all the people, as we conceive it.

Self-government is no exotic which springs up in a people over night. It is a state of mind produced by long, arduous training, through the struggle upward of a people by their own efforts. It must spring from within; it has never been imposed from without with any success. The American people are the first to try the experiment of training up a people in self-government, and the world looks on with critical eye, unexpectant of our success. It is a daring experiment, born of the highest altruism. Ex-President Taft, who best knows the Philippines, believes the pupil will not be ready to walk alone until two generations pass. Some who are more sanguine believe one generation will suffice. None of those who really know the Philippines believe they are now capable of walking alone, any more than we believe a child who has just mastered the four rules of simple arithmetic can suddenly jump to higher mathematics.

Those who would carefully train in the ways of self-government this nation, which was only yesterday, as it were, brought out of the darkness of despotism into the daylight of liberty and which has not yet become fully accustomed to the brightness, are denounced as imperialists and as little better than tyrants. There were two easier ways than theirs of disposing of the Philippines — either keep them indefinitely under a benevolent despotism or turn them loose to shift for themselves and ultimately to fall into the hands of some nation which has no sentiment in dealing with the black races. These men chose to teach these people how to govern themselves, as a father trains his child, shielding them from the bullies among nations and placing more responsibility upon them as they gained strength to bear it. Though these men chose the infinitely more difficult and nobler part, they are condemned by the short-cut philanthropists, who with zeal untempered by discretion, shirk responsibility in the imagined cause of liberty.

### DANGER IN BRYAN'S BLUNDERS.

The failure of Secretary Bryan to sense the meaning of warnings from European powers that, unless the United States took steps to protect lives and property of their subjects in Mexico, those powers would themselves intervene, shows the danger of having a man at the head of the Department of State who is ignorant of diplomatic usage and who neglects to take the advice of his better informed subordinates.

Such warnings as those in question are veiled by diplomats in language in which the average man is not apt to perceive the full meaning. In other words, diplomats do not "talk plain English" or "talk straight out," for by doing so they would violate the etiquette of statecraft and would give offense which might precipitate a crisis. In highly courteous, round-about phrase they intimate what would happen in certain eventualities. Trained diplomacy is required to translate such language into plain English. Mr. Bryan does not posses it. He has in John Bassett Moore a diplomat learned in international law and well versed in diplomatic usage, but on important occasions is said to have acted without consulting Mr. Moore. He has thus put himself and his Government in embarrassing positions, from which he needed Mr. Moore's aid to extricate him.

Had not President Wilson sensed the meaning of the European warnings, and changed his tactics accordingly, we might have awakened some morning to find an armed force of some other nation occupying Mexican ports and sending expeditions to interior points to rescue subjects of that nation or to guard them and their property. That nation would almost certainly have called on Mexico to pay the expense of the expedition and the losses of its subjects and might have occupied some Mexican port until it had collected enough money in duties to satisfy its claim.

This series of events would have put the Monroe doctrine in grave peril. It has never been accepted by any European nation except England and rests solely on our acceptance of its responsibilities and on our ability and willingness to enforce it. Germany in particular would delight to prove it a dead letter. Temporary occupation of a Mexican port for the collection of a claim would not be an actual violation of the Monroe doctrine, but it might easily become permanent. Some nations are notoriously reluctant to surrender soil they have once occupied, and we might thus have the alternative of threatening war or meekly abandoning the Monroe doctrine.

If our peace-at-any-price Secretary of State should involve us in war, it would not be the first time that a man of his stamp has brought about results the reverse of those at which he aimed. The rebellion of Arabi Pasha in Egypt in 1882 and the first Boer war in 1881 were the direct result of Mr. Gladstone's peaceful declarations, and the second Boer war was the outcome of his policy. If we escape armed intervention in Mexico, it will be in spite of and not because of Mr. Bryan's efforts to avoid resort to force and it will also be in spite of his ignorance of diplomacy and of his unwillingness to seek and follow the advice of men who are better informed.

### HOW TO COLLECT WATER BILLS.

In a letter printed today Mr. G. Y. Harry offers some pertinent suggestions for solution of the water-rate question. Briefly, he suggests that it is wise to install meters only on the premises of large water consumers; that where a flat rate is collected it is not necessary to send out a monthly bill; that policemen can do much of the work now performed by water inspectors.

The plan, if it be practicable, offers a saving in postage, printing, clerical work and inspection service and calls for no expenditures for additional equipment. The correspondent points out that the bill rendered for flat-rate service is but a reminder. In truth, it is nothing more. The gas bill, the grocery bill, the meat bill are reminders, but serve the additional function of informing the consumer the amount of his indebtedness. Under the flat-rate water plan the consumer needs no information. The house renter does not usually get a bill unless he becomes delinquent. Why could not water service be handled in the same way? We know of one city having a privately owned water system and a flat-rate plan where no bills are rendered — at least none were rendered up to a few years ago.

But, it is argued by Mr. Charles B. Moores, in another letter, that the flat rate is inequitable. "No man," he says, "can frame a good reason why a water user who has only two faucets in his house should pay the same water charge as one who has two dozen." True enough, but the flat rate of 75 cents per month is presumably the minimum charged. The man who has two dozen faucets in his house is supposed to pay a higher rate. If he does not, a correction in administration methods is needed in the water department.

Flat-rate charges can be made fairly equitable. They will not, of course, favor the consumer who is saving or punish the one who is secretly wasteful, yet it is not always wise to spend money for a mere ideal. Probably in time the cost of installing meters will be justified by encroachment of consumption on capacity of flow, but the city is now far from that point. "But," says Mr. Moores, "no man has ever yet advanced the theory that, because a seller has a surplus of products he may not be able otherwise to dispose of, he should for the same money give one man twice as much as he does another." It is well also to remind ourselves that in any private enterprise it may be doubted that such a seller would burden himself with costly equipment merely to prevent a discrimination that did not harm him or anybody else.

### THE HOMICIDE RECORD.

Statistics of homicide in the year 1912 show that the ratio for the United States as a whole decreased from 8.4 to 8.1 per 100,000 population, as compared with the year 1911, but in the Southern states the ratio was 20.2 per 100,000—more than double that of the Western or Central states and nearly five times that of the Eastern states. This is also a great increase on the ten-year average of 15.7. In Memphis the ratio jumped from 11.6 to 64.3 and in New Orleans it was 27.5.

Although the proportion in New York City was less than that for the whole country, being 6.8, it is still much higher than that of European cities, London having a record of 1.31, Paris 3.6 and Copenhagen an average for five years of only 0.45.

The large population of ignorant negroes in the South and the comparative impunity enjoyed by white men who take summary revenge for crimes of violence committed by negroes would explain an abnormally high homicide rate in the South.

Memphis, which has the highest homicide rate among cities of the United States, ascribes the record to the existence of surrounding dry territory. It is argued that men from other districts come into Memphis to carouse. They have saved money for a debauch and continue it until it often ends in murder.

Temperament may also have its influence in the South. That the mental disposition there is more fiery than in the North is not wholly a matter of fancy or tradition. A normally high rate is explainable, but a disproportionate increase indicates that some other factor influences the record. It may be a superior method of keeping records. Homicide, suicide and similar statistics are generally recognized as only approaching accuracy. Registration areas are not always broadly inclusive, and in records shown by small percentages a mild and isolated epidemic of the thing recorded has a marked effect on figures.

### STEAM-ROLLING THE SENATE.

To what are we coming? The Senate is to be steam-rolled by the President and the House and compelled to pass the currency bill they frame. Looking back no farther than a generation, we see both President and House dominated by such men as Edmunds, Hoar, Sherman, Hale, Allison, Cullom, Aldrich and Root. When a bill went over to the Senate from the House, they took it to pieces and made it all over again, and their work was substantially the bill which finally became law. That was the case with the anti-trust law, the interstate commerce law, the Payne-Aldrich tariff and the railroad rate laws of 1906 and 1910. The Senate was the dominant power in legislation. Now all this is changed. The President dictates to the House, and the House is to dictate to the Senate.

The old Republican leaders in the Senate who formed what has been called the Aldrich machine have passed away or resigned. But few survive and their party is split into two factions which nullify its power. The Democrats' accession to power has pushed to the front men who are, by comparison with those named, mere mediocrities. They are the product of the seniority rule, under which ability is wasted in awaiting mere lapse of time. Such men as Senators Simmons, Martin, Owen, Clark, Newlands, Myers, Culberson, Tillman, who head the great committees, do not compare in ability with those who preceded them. Men of equal ability with the old Republican leaders may, probably do, exist in the Democratic ranks, but they are held down by the veterans and have not had opportunity to prove their capacity and to push themselves to the front. There is hope from such men as Senators Williams, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Walsh, Kern, but they are too young in the service to have won full recognition of their qualities of leadership.

The Senate is in a state of transition and has many members who have not yet found themselves. Direct election may bring into it a new type of men, may force a change of methods of doing business. The Senate is in eclipse, perhaps temporary, as the dominant power in government, or no man would dare say that it is to be steam-rolled.

### OUR DEFENDERS IN PEACE AND WAR.

We naturally associate the army with war in our thoughts; hence we are prone to regard it with disfavor in times of peace. Yet Secretary Garrison speaks truly when he calls our attention to the splendid work the army does in peace as well as in war and calls upon us to give the soldiers credit for all they do, not only in fighting for us, but in helping us in emergencies.

When flood and fire destroy a city, the army, with its trained, disciplined men, comes forward to clear away ruins, to prevent epidemics, to distribute relief and to police the streets. When the Panama Canal was to be built and one civilian engineer after another wearied of the task, the Army came forward and carried the work to completion. When Alaska needed roads and trails, the Army went forth and cut paths through the wilderness. The Army is always ready to help us in time of peace, to fight for us in time of war. It is not a body of well-fed loafers, as many are inclined to suppose, but spends its leisure between times of active service in keeping up its training and machinery, that it may be ready instantly to respond to a call to duty.

Public opinion of the army has a great influence on its morale. An organization, like an individual, is disposed to live up to or down to the estimation in which it is held. Think and speak well of the soldiers and they will be disposed to earn our good opinion. Think and speak ill of them, and they may make no effort to be any better than they are considered. We need to remember, when we see a man in Uncle Sam's uniform, that he is ready to face not only a foreign foe but fire, flood, pestilence and famine for us whenever the call comes.

### EXPENSES OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

Recently-compiled statistics as to the amount expended per capita of school population by the various states of the country show that Oregon stands very nearly at the head, being outdone by only three states, Nevada, California and Washington.

By common schools it is meant all schools confined in their teachings to the eighth grade and below. The gross expenditures for such schools, which, of course, embraces the erection and maintenance of buildings, cost of sites and all incidental expenses, aggregate for the entire country to $446,000,000 per annum. Twenty-eight dollars per capita of school population is fixed as the amount at which schools can be maintained with efficiency, and only 12 of the states expend that much or more, as follows: Nevada, $43.51; California, $41.52; Washington, $40.36; Oregon, $37.74; Montana, $37.73; Wyoming, $35.73; Utah, $32.25; North Dakota, $30.26; Idaho, $30.06; Colorado, $29.96; Massachusetts, $29.35, and New Jersey, $28.77.

It will be noticed that only two states east of the Rocky Mountain slope are in this "normal" column, and they are at the very bottom of the list. The great state of New York expends but $25.52 per capita.

It will be said that the older states spend large sums, much larger than the Western States, for higher education. On the other hand we must remember that we of the West have many more new buildings to erect than the older states. We must also bear in mind that one of the newer states, Oklahoma, falls very far in the rear. That state's outlay is but $12.94 per capita, the expenditures being $6,759,413, whereas the normal amount would be $15,146,712.

For poverty-stricken schools one must go to the Southern States. For instance, Georgia expends $5.05 per capita and South Carolina but $4.27. Iowa would be supposed to be among the higher-ups, but that state expends but $21.55 per capita.

Upon the whole Oregon has every reason to be proud of the support given the public schools, as have practically all of the Western States, for those not mentioned approach very nearly the normal mark.

### ONE TEMPLE OF FAME.

Why should the male immortals be enshrined in a hall of fame apart from the female immortals, as suggested by Dr. Brander Matthews at the convention of the American Academy of Arts? Is there any incompatibility between the genius of the male and that of the female sex? To cite one striking illustration, why should Madame Curie be separated from the husband, in whose discoveries she aided and whose fame she shares? In the work which won them fame they were partners, and in the memorial erected to them they should not be divided.

Survey the whole field of literature and the other arts, and the same general principle will be found to apply. Among statesmen Queen Elizabeth, Maria Theresa of Austria, Catherine of Russia and other sovereigns rank with the ablest men, and probably denial of opportunity alone has limited the number of women of their stamp. Only an imaginary line divides women writers, painters, sculptors, philanthropists and social reformers from their male co-workers. Should not Jane Addams and Helen Gould stand on pedestals beside Jacob Riis; Frances Willard and Susan B. Anthony beside John B. Gough and Father Mathew; Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe and all the brilliant woman-writers of America beside the men who shared their inspiration? Why should Robert and Elizabeth Browning, each of whom fired the genius of the other in life, dwell in different temples of fame?

Professor Matthews' suggestion is a survival of the days when men placed the genius of woman on a different and lower plane than that of men; when genius in man was regarded by his sex as normal, while in woman it was considered freakish. The twentieth century regards woman as man's co-worker in all things except those requiring brute strength, as his equal in intellectual power and as his complement, enabling him to perform finer feats through her association with him. The twentieth century idea would be better realized by the erection of one temple of fame, where woman shall be admitted to her place beside man in all his activities, rather than by two temples, wherein the artificial division which has until recently arrested the development of woman would be perpetuated.

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The federal idea is taking hold everywhere in the British Empire except in the mother country itself, and even there it is being talked of since Irish home rule became imminent. It is now proposed to federate the West Indies and the colonies around the Caribbean Sea in a dominion similar to those of Canada, Australia and South Africa. These consist of:

| Colony— | Area, Sqr. miles. | Popu'n. |
|---|---|---|
| British Guana | 97,800 | 310,000 |
| British Honduras | 8,600 | 50,000 |
| Jamaica | 4,207 | 900,000 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1,870 | 350,000 |
| Barbadoes | 166 | 200,000 |
| Bahamas | 5,500 | 60,000 |
| Bermuda | 19 | 20,000 |
| Totals | 118,162 | 1,890,000 |

These colonies are separated by sea, but are within easy distance and are united by cable and wireless. The new dominion will have a voice in the affairs of the tropical countries.

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The death of a prominent Atlantan through taking by mistake some tablets of bichloride of mercury has been followed by several suicides with that poison. An official of the public health department lays the blame on the newspapers for publishing the facts, saying the suicides seized upon the suggestion. If these suicides had not taken this poison they would probably have killed themselves by some other means, for their minds must have dwelt on suicide. The newspapers are entitled to credit for the warning they have given against leaving poisonous drugs where they may be taken by mistake or with suicidal intent. The man who objects to publication of such events is akin to the Russians who seek to keep ideas of liberty out of the people's minds by censoring accounts of revolutions and rebellions from school histories.

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Mrs. David F. Houston, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, says we are not so degenerate after all and are no worse than our grandparents were. She recalls that the waltz was regarded as a horrid innovation, and considers the new dances, "danced by well-bred young people," beautiful. Women's clothes were "never quite so pretty and never quite so sensible," and, as to modesty, she showed a miniature of her grandmother clad for the street in a low-necked gown, while slit skirts are only history repeating itself. Cheer up! We are not going to the dogs after all.

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Beloit College the other day celebrated the fact that John Pfeiffer had served it as janitor for 50 years. The students sent the octogenarian flowers and souvenirs, the faculty sat down with him to a dinner cooked by his daughter and Mr. Pfeiffer made a speech on enthusiasm. That is a fine example of Western democracy and recognition of long service. And what a fine spirit must move John Pfeiffer, that he remains enthusiastic at 80 in his humble calling. Would that every 80-year-old could feel as he does. We warrant he does not envy a millionaire.

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A few days ago a correspondent called attention to what appeared to be serious mistakes in arithmetical calculations in a letter printed on this page over the signature of R. R. Morrill. As the letter read, the cost of installing a meter water system in Portland was one-tenth of what the result should have been under the writer's computations. In justice to Mr. Morrill it should be said that his copy was correct. Dropping of the final cipher on several totals by the typographical department of The Oregonian caused the error.

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If we would but learn from our neighbors, Indianapolis might have avoided the carmen's strike and Michigan and Colorado the miners' strikes. A conciliation and arbitration law like that of Canada and like that which prevented the Eastern railroad men's strike would have saved much bad blood, much loss of life and money.

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Farmers have engaged in hot rivalry in sending big turnips to Vice-President Marshall, but did anybody ever taste one of them? They are coarse in fibre and not to be compared with tender, juicy little turnips. God makes little turnips, as he makes little onions, for people of good taste to eat.

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Dr. Brougher says "there is no difference between going into another man's home and bunny-hugging with his wife while her husband is away and doing such things openly and brazenly in the public view," which shows just how much the doctor knows about it.

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The Governor, in his proclamation, asks the people to render thanks for statesmanship at the capital that has led tollers and men of great wealth to better understanding. The Oregon sheepgrower, of course, is excluded for the day.

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Harry Thaw's lawyers say Jerome's methods are undignified. Jerome should change his methods at once. Let this Thaw mess be dignified, if it is nothing else—Chicago Record-Herald.

Why, certainly; we must preserve the dignity of the law at all costs, for what would law be without its dignity?

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The Kansas City Star predicts that some day there will be in this country a lawmaking body with no lawyers in it that will pass laws that the plain people can understand. They would be Greek to the lawyers.

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The charge that was slow in going off has again killed a man removing stumps. It would appear the expert is as likely to be killed as the novice.

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A man who has read The Oregonian for 51 years has well kept up with the news, even from the beginning, when news was hard to get.

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A dreary day in November is designed to make man think of the pleasant days in all the other months.

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An American Hall of Fame without women will be a jug-handled incongruity.

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Somebody call off these rains. Christy cannot play in a raincoat.

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Indoor sports have a chance in this weather.

### LET EACH PAY FOR WHAT HE GETS

#### Mr. Moores Believes Meter System Only Fair One for Water Service.

PORTLAND, Nov. 16. — (To the Editor.)—Two recent communications in The Oregonian upon the question of installing water meters throughout the city illustrates one of the peculiar characteristics of human nature—the overwhelming desire to get something for nothing. There is no city in the Union which provides better water than the City of Portland, and when we consider how essential is good water to the comfort and health and happiness of the people, we are safe in saying there is nothing, in proportion to its actual value, for which we pay so little.

People who cannot bear the strain of their water tax and who, perhaps, sigh for the good old days of the dug well and the Douglas pump, when we carried in all our water in a bucket, heated it in a teakettle [illegible]hed in an old wash tub, must be in absolute desperation when they get their monthly meat, grocery, gas and electric bills. Yet from no source do we hear the doctrine that a family that uses five pounds of meat should pay no more for that amount than does the family that uses only two pounds, and if the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company should charge the man who has only six electric lights just the same as it does the man who has 100 lights, what a howl of protests would go up from the champions of a flat water rate. Yet, why is it not just as reasonable to exploit in this way the resources of the electric light people, as it is to use the resources of the water company, which belong to the people, by making a rank discrimination in favor of large or wasteful water users?

A man ought to pay for just what he uses, whether it is meat, or groceries, or light, or water, and no man can frame any good reason why a water-user who has only two faucets in his house, should pay the same water charge as one who has two dozen.

One of your correspondents figures out that 50,000 meters, at $12 per meter, would cost in 12 years, principal and interest, $960,000. This is a formidable sum. He might have made his estimate for 48 years, and we would have had the far more appalling and impressive sum of $3,840,000. Now, let him give us a few figures on what the meat, and grocery, and light, and other bills of the 250,000 people of Portland will amount to, principal and interest, during the next 12 years, and we will all be plunged into the uttermost depths of despair.

A more sensible and optimistic way of figuring out this proposition would be to take his arbitrary sum of $960,000 and find out how much this means for each one of our 250,000 people. It would mean just $3.84 per capita in 12 years, or 32 cents per capita in one year, 2 2-3 cents per month, or less than nine-hundredths of one cent per day. Looking at it this way makes it easier for us to "bear up" under the burden.

But whether the establishing of meters throughout the city will entail an extra burden or not is not the most important question. Is it equitable? In what essential respect does a water tax differ from any other? Every taxpayer, in theory at least, pays them just what he has, and upon the assumption that he is getting an exact equivalent. Every man who goes out into the open market pays for just what he gets. No man has ever yet advanced the theory that, because a seller has a surplus of products he may not be able otherwise to dispose of, he should for the same money give one man twice as much as he does another. There is no reason why the municipality should discriminate against the small and economical user of Bull Run water by making a flat water rate, even at a saving of nine one-hundredths of one cent per day.

CHAS. B. MOORES.

### EFFECT OF ORDER ON LAUNDRIES

#### Foreman Declares Plants Will Employ Only Inexperienced Help.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 15.—(To the Editor.)—For the enlightenment of the Industrial Welfare Commission and the general public I will give some information about the conditions in laundries which I have learned during my three years' foremanship in one of Portland's well-known laundries. Right here I wish to state that if the news item regarding the commission's ruling is correct, they are lowering the poor laundry girls' wages with no chance for ever bettering her condition.

When I became mangle foreman, a little over three years ago, the lowest pay was 14 cents an hour. Some employes received 15 cents and very seldom one got $9 straight. The day was of nine hours. One year later the hours were increased to 9½ per day, while the pay was reduced to 13½ and up to 15 cents, with the elusive $9. On the third year another reduction of a half-cent took place, while some of the days were increased to 10 hours.

In the month of August last, I was told by some girls that they got 12½ cents per hour. The range of weekly pay runs all the way from $6.50 to $8.30, with about $7.40 predominating. Average hours per week, 54.

Now, if the commission's ruling be put in force, this will happen: A laundry employer will pay $1 per day, as per order to inexperienced help and will work the girl 54 hours. At the end of the year he will let her go and take someone else. Never will the pay go higher than $1. Right here I wish to state that in the mangleroom a girl becomes experienced in from one to three days.

I will also state that from my personal observation, and I am positive in my contention, that it is inhuman, even criminal, to work a woman as a mangle more than eight hours.

What the girls need for immediate amelioration of their conditions is this:

Sixty minutes for lunch.

An eight-hour day.

$1.50 per day, straight time.

The absolute abolition of piecework.

And the last, and most important, is a strong industrial organization among all the laundry workers.

I am not pessimistic about the future of the women employes, but I am firmly convinced that their salvation will not come from well-meaning but misinformed reformers, but through their own intelligent organization.

JACOB SOLOMAN.

#### Etiquette of Party Calls.

PORTLAND, Nov. 16.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian Thursday, in answer to a question on etiquette, you tell "Very Young Matron" that she should call upon the hostess giving the tea in about 10 days following the function. Such is not the custom in any city of which the writer knows, except Portland, and I cannot believe that it is followed here amongst the "400."

The hostess merely designates a day on which she will be "at home" to her friends and offers refreshments to those calling. And in other cities the hostess must return those calls. It is absurd to think that several hundred cards which are left at her door that day should all be left over again within another fortnight.

ONE WHO DIFFERS.

#### Flood Information.

SHERIDAN, Or., Nov. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Can you direct me to some publication that contains a list of the great fires and floods of the world and the loss of life and loss of property in each? Yours truly,

LUTHER FUNK.

Haydn's "Dictionary of Dates" may be the book desired. It is published by Ward, Lock & Co., London, England, price $5.04, and can be obtained through booksellers in this city. Any good encyclopedia will supply the information except that concerning most recent disasters.

### COUNTRY MERCHANT AND FARMER

#### Storekeeper in Effect Handles One Class of Loans That Help Agriculture.

HILLSBORO, Or., Nov. 16.—(To the Editor.)—The letter of J. H. Wilson and your editorial on country banks and rural credits November 12 are suggestive, especially to the merchants of country towns. Mr. Wilson's letter would have been complete if it made reference to mail orders, to which your editorial would doubtless have adverted and which, I believe, would have been enlightening. The short loan by country banks you properly say is common. You intimate that long loans are the exception to the rule. Of course you mean that country banks do not give long loans (even with their big interest for sustention and maintenance), and you pertinently ask the question, after an allusion to comparatively short terms in Germany and France, "what banks handle credits of this character?"

Answer—No banks, but the merchants do. The merchants are the original and pioneer helpers of the farmer and they invariably pay no attention to principal or interest; loans, short or extended, so long as the farmer receives the wherewithal to make his improvements, to sow and cultivate, harvest and market his crop, and then pay fairly or in entirety the "credit"—not the loan—the merchant gave him and gave him without interest.

As between the panacea in Mr. Wilson's letter and your editorial, the latter is the lesser of the two evils, hence preferable. But worse than all others and emphatically more ruinous is the mail order business. If you say the country banks can't give long loans, even at 8 or 10 per cent interest, with foreclosure clauses, how comes it that the mail order business is to be encouraged if co-operation between urban and rural communities is to exist, with its accompanying esprit de corps in the matter of related trustworthiness? Or vice versa?

I know about a dozen small towns, none 100 miles from Portland, wherein the merchants give the farmers from $40,000 to $75,000 credit without interest. These merchants have to pay the manufacturers and wholesale firms promptly or they would be blacklisted in the Davis Review or Bradstreet's compilations.

The truth is, if you stop to analyse it, the country merchant by his attention to business methods, his economy and small profits and his persistent endeavor to sell at short margin of profit a large stock, is doing more to keep the farmer alive than all other forces together. The prosperity of one reacts on the other. Instances could be cited at pleasure. Ask, for example, any dozen of your farmers around country towns how much credit they have received from the town merchant and how often, if at all, that merchant has attempted to foreclose, even if he had the power to recover his debt that way. If the farmer does business by the mail order system he has to send his money orders in advance. The result is he has no money to put in the bank, he doesn't deal with the merchant and the merchant, the main support of the bank, is no longer trusted by the bank, nor can the merchant give credit to the dairymen, hopgrowers or graingrowers for groceries, clothing, implements, etc., with the result that Mr. mail order magnate is a bigger farmer than Miller or Lux or Jim Haggin ever dreamed to be.

COUNTRY MERCHANT.

### WAY OUT OF WATER CONTROVERSY

#### Dispense With Monthly Bills and Make Policemen Inspectors.

PORTLAND, Nov. 15. — (To the Editor.)—The proposed plan of quarterly water rate collections, making the landlord pay the bill, is not a fair one to the property-owner. It is an unnecessary change in the methods of collecting water rates. I question whether the courts would hold property responsible for an indefinite charge, as would be the case where bills are made by meter measurement. Let the water department quit rendering meter-rate bills excepting to the large consumers.

Place all on flat rates, which have not been changed for about eight years. Quit rendering monthly bills or any other time bills. The bill is a reminder of what is due and when. Rates established and unchanged for eight years should not be hard to remember. Make the bills due on the first of the month (when all other current bills become payable), and delinquent on the 10th, and turn the water off for non-payment on the 11th. This would save clerk hire, postage, stationery, etc., even the four quarterly statements under the plan proposed.

Use the policemen to make delinquent collections, also do away with the employment of the inspection service for domestic water users, and instruct the officers to enforce water regulations, report leakage, etc. They have the time and are paid a salary by the city, which owns the water system, all of which is under direction and management by the Commissioners on a business basis.

It should not be necessary for the Commissioner of Public Utilities to petition the Commissioner of Public Affairs to permit employes in his department to be used in an economy affecting the whole city. I hope we will not have to suspect a possible drifting of our departments of city control into bureaucracy.

The underlying reason for voting commission government was the placing of its affairs on a business basis, in the hands of business men. It was expected that they would take the broad view that they were an active board of directors and managers, having in charge the direction and management of all the different branches of the city's government. The five gentlemen who are now managing the city's business will either rise or fall as the "administration." Any important act in any department will be charged to it.

While the Commissioner in charge of each department will be directly responsible for the execution of the Commission's policies, he is only responsible for legislation concerning his department as one member of the Council.

So important a matter affecting, as it does, all the homes of the city, should not be put in effect with the responsibility resting upon one only of the board of directors.

The plans which I suggest may be objected to because it has never been done; but stop and think. Wasn't that the real reason for changing our form of city government, the desire of the people to have things done which had not been done before?

G. Y. HARRY.

#### The Beggar, Time.

Always beside me as I go my way
This beggar, Time, walks with his outstretched palms,
Demanding, not beseeching, of me alms—
Alms of the precious hours of my day.

So side by side we walk until my day
Is growing dusk, and Time's purse of the years
Holds alms of mine, bright-jeweled with my tears,
Since I have given these treasured hours away.

Nor from his swollen purse will he give me
One hour, although with spendthrift song and gay
I flung him alms, nor ever said him nay,
A beggar and a miser both is he!

—Century.

#### His Girl No. 2.

Washington (D. C.) Herald.

"Algernon, why do you call on me?"

"Mabel has dropped me." "Well, you needn't expect me to pick you up."

## Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of November 17, 1888.

Olympia, Wash., Nov. 16. — The Olympia Review, formerly the new Transcript, made its first appearance today under the new name. It is edited by H. W. Bessac, formerly proprietor of the Chehalis Vidette.

Albany, Or., Nov. 16.—E. W. Langdon, who recently returned from California, has purchased of George E. Chamberlain, cashier of the First National Bank, a portion of his interest in the bank. Mr. Chamberlain has resigned his position as cashier and Mr. Langdon will probably be his successor. Mr. Chamberlain will resume the practice of law.

La Grande, Nov. 16.—John Wells, father of L. H. Wells, of East Portland, was thrown from a wagon and killed today.

Pendleton, Or., Nov. 16.—Dr. E. J. Summerville is mentioned as a candidate for the postmastership. Lee Moorhouse and J. P. Bushee are mentioned for other Federal offices.

This evening a public meting will be held in Hall & Stott's hall to discuss consolidation of East Portland with Portland. A petition to the Legislature has been numerously signed.

Mr. Leaman, who has the contract to build a lighthouse at Cape Meares, started out a day or two since, in company with an engineer from Major Handburg's office, to visit the cape. They got as far as North Yamhill, but were unable to go further. The road over the Coast range has been badly washed out and is impassable for vehicles. Mr. Maddox still gets through with the mail on horseback, but is 14 hours going from North Yamhill to Lincoln.

Captain D. C. Howard and his son, George, returned last night from Shoalwater Bay.

Olympia, Nov. 71.—Joseph Deaves, one of the earliest settlers in Washington Territory, is dead.

Thomas Tucker says there are a great many potatoes yet undug in the vicinity of Beaverton.

Jacob Mayer, of Portland, grand master of the A. F. and A. M. of Oregon, will visit subordinate lodges in Rogue River Valley next week.

## Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of November 17, 1863.

There has been quietly put in force by the Secretary of the Treasury a system of finance which we candidly believe is sure to become of more valuable advantage to the whole country than any one can now estimate. The results and the benefits of the pure currency banking system devised by Mr. Chase, when it is fully established, will be hailed as the consequences of the most salutary and sagacious act of the present Administration.

Chattanooga, Nov. 6.—The enemy keeps up a fire from a 20-pounder gun on the crest of Lookout Mountain, occasionally reaching our lines. General Longstreet's forces are established on Lookout Mountain, which is held by a strong force. The bulk of the army here has been on half rations for weeks, and finally the only way supplies could be transported was in wagons and on pack mules and by the circuitous route over the mountains. Accordingly Hooper occupied Raccoon Mountain. His position is said to be strong and unassailable.

Sub-Indian Agent A. E. Rogers, in Oregon, has preferred charges against Colonel Drew, in command at Camp Baker and Fort Klamath, but they proved to be entirely without foundation.

The quartz of the Owyhee crops out in narrow, broken veins, some of which have yielded assays of $3000 silver and a fair proportion of gold. There are about 200 miners at Boonville.

A. G. Richardson, of the California Stage Company, arrived here on Saturday, looking as gay and festive as ever.

### ENCOURAGE THE BOY TO WHITTLE

#### He May Develop Into Handy Man Abont His Future Home, Says Writer

FORT CANBY, Wash., Nov. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Acting upon the belief that a few words of sincere approbation, even from the most humble source, are seldom entirely unappreciated, the writer desires most heartily to indorse the sentiments expressed editorially in The Oregonian Nov. 12, under the heading "Handy About the House."

From a number of years' experience, the writer feels convinced that a few good tools, together with an inclination and moderate ability to use them, constitute one of the most satisfying and healthful recreations within reach of the average man. But it is not believed that the poor husband, without taste or ability to perform odd jobs, should be visited with entire responsibility for his luckless state, for in the days of his youth any constructive tendencies which he may have evinced were more than likely discouraged into abeyance by repeated maternal admonitions against "making whittlings on the floor."

So, mother, let the boy whittle. He may be developing into a very efficient "handy man," to the everlasting joy of his future wife. But insist, from the beginning, upon this one point: when the whittling is finished, the boy must understand that it is his natural duty to sweep up the litter, and not, under any circumstances, to expect his mother to do it.

CHESTER J. STEDMAN, M. D.

#### Name of Royal Family.

EUGENE, Or., Nov. 15.—(To The Editor.)—(1) What is the family name of the royal family of England?

(2) Who is the present poet laureate of England, and who preceded him?

MARGARET N. FELL.

(1) Guelph. (2) Robert Bridges succeeded Alfred Austin.


Gone

Are the Corsets

Of Yesterday

You have heard the expression used a great many times in the last six months, "The corsetless age." Has it struck you that for an age without corsets there are more kinds of corsets being advertised now than ever before?

The truth of the matter is that there are not many women who are completely abandoning their stays; but that as fashion decrees that a woman's figure should appear unrestrained, the corset makers have been busy turning out new models faster than they ever have before in their lives.

Are you sure that you know just what the very latest designs are in corsets, who are making them, and where they are bought?

If you don't know all that you should on this question, you would better begin at once reading the advertisements in The Oregonian daily so that you may catch up with the times before you find yourself out of style.—Adv.