

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, March 31, 1914.

WILSON'S TROUBLESOME PLANKS.

Mr. Wilson's citation of the anti-subsidy plank of the Baltimore platform against the toll exemption plank shows the beautiful inconsistency of that famous instrument. Either the convention did not consider exemption a subsidy or it tried with one plank to catch the votes of those who opposed subsidies, while with the other plank it tried to catch those who favored them.

But Mr. Wilson's excuse for proposing repeal of exemption does not agree with the circumstances under which Congress voted exemption. In the House twenty more Democrats voted against exemption than voted for it, but in the Senate twenty-one voted for it and none against it.

VALUATION OF RAILROADS.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has just entered upon one of its greatest tasks ever undertaken by the Government—the valuation of all the railroads in the United States, a total of about a quarter of a million miles, with all their terminal property and buildings.

The Commission is to ascertain the cost of reproducing every railroad, less depreciation. It has already called upon every railroad to furnish maps and inventory of its property. It has now set a work to verify the accuracy of the figures.

Some difficult questions have already arisen, as Mr. Prouty shows. For example, should the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Road be credited with the cost of the two lines through Nevada which were destroyed by floods before it finally constructed one which would "stay put"?

Should the Northern Pacific be credited with the \$1,000,000 of maintenance in value of its right of way through Spokane, which cost nothing, that enhancement being due to the growth of the city, which in turn was largely, if not mainly, due to the presence of the road?

Although the valuation was for years opposed by the railroad companies, they now recognize that it will be a fair return on their actual value, and what the securities of other roads are really worth.

will realize Napoleon's ideal of putting a Marshal's baton in every knapsack. Indignation against the army will be apt to add violence to the attacks on the aristocracy, and political lines of demarcation may be sharply drawn between the masses and the aristocracy.

Upon the final outcome of the battle at Torreon must depend the future progress of the revolution in Northern Mexico. Without Torreon Villa can make no further advance against his ultimate goal, Mexico City.

HAPPY PRODUCERS.

Over in Tillamook County, where they produce timber, butter and cheese, they are diligent and interested students of the tariff. The Tillamook Herald writes that it is altogether happy over the current era of Democratic good times, addresses a few pertinent inquiries to a Democratic contemporary, and The Oregonian reproduces them to show the style and quality of thought now possessing some Oregon minds.

Wants the tariff altered for the express purpose of lowering the price of everything raised on the farm, and allow food stuffs from Australia, China, Canada, Japan, and other countries to be sold in free and unfettered American markets? If the value of the dollar falls, the price of the land will reduce the value of their land as well.

FROM A PIG'S EYE.

Melancholy reflections must arise in the brain of the anti-vice-sectionist as he peruses the account of a recent surgical operation in Baltimore. A child's eye, which had been badly injured by disease, has been restored to sight. The cornea had become opaque. The useless part has been cut away and a perfectly clear piece put in its place.

THE SHORT CUT AGAIN.

Judge Bennett seems to take the view the Governor acted illegally in Copperfield. The Circuit Court of Baker County has ruled that the Governor was within the law in what he did in the case of the Copperfield. The Governor was refused—East Oregonian.

The Pendleton newspaper should read the decision in the Copperfield injunction case. The court did not decide that the acts of the Governor and the militia were within the law. It held merely that the Governor had not acted illegally in the case.

ASQUITH MEETS THE EMERGENCY.

Premier Asquith's decision to add the way portfolio to his other duties brings to a head the crisis arising from the mutinous action of the army officers who were ordered to Ulster. It has evidently reunited his followers behind him after Colonel Seely's parting with the mutineers had started loud mutterings among the members of the cabinet and the Liberalites.

USE FOR WHAT WE WASTE.

It has been said that a Chinese family wastes a ton of dirt in the kitchen. That saying is brought forcibly to mind by an address made by ex-Governor Curtis Guild at a recent convention of the National Association of Waste Material Dealers.

Eighty thousand railroad hands in Italy are agitating a strike. Who would have suspected there were that many Italian railroad hands outside the United States? The Frenchman who has gone to Rome to induce the Vatican to rescind the recent order for decency in woman's dress will have her trouble for her pains.

peans darn and patch are imported to this country for paper stock. Waste material is cleaned and sorted and made into the sanitary paper drinking cups which are now used. Waste rubber becomes cheap waterproof shoes, and clothing for the poor, and cheap wool stock makes warm blankets.

TAKING TORREON.

Upon the final outcome of the battle at Torreon must depend the future progress of the revolution in Northern Mexico. Without Torreon Villa can make no further advance against his ultimate goal, Mexico City.

Torreon is wanted by Villa as a base in the next stage of his advance on Victoria and San Luis Potosi. To press forward on these points he must control the railroad lines and have Torreon to fall back on for supplies and water. Otherwise he could not hope to penetrate the 200 miles of hopeless desert where water is unknown and even chaparral doesn't grow.

FROM A PIG'S EYE.

Dr. Lyman Abbott's Outlook Reminiscences have got as far as his college days, which he describes with entertaining garrulity. His alma mater was New York University. At that time, about 1840, it had no library, no regular courses in modern languages and no laboratories.

For the coming season the Harvard baseball nine will be maneuvered by its captain, who is a student. The professional coaches will efface themselves, at least while the games are playing. The pestiferous alumni coaches will also be condemned to an impossible silence.

There should be no trifling with the Bull Run reservation. The inroad just now made is slight, but it may form a dangerous precedent. The water supply of a great city is more important than the interests of a few homesteaders.

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The Fly Campaign

Wake me early mother, With loud and noisy cry; For I and little brother, Go forth to swat the fly. And for a season, gaily Follow all our duties main. We'll do our duty daily In this wild fly campaign.

WHERE MOST BILLS COME FROM Taxating Officialdom Imposes on Members of Legislature. SALEM, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Your editorial concerning some of the persons for places on the Legislative ticket in Multnomah County is very much appreciated by thinking people.

Now what takes place? The Legislature has no bills, which is not asked to create any new laws, and generally has not the brains to get up a law, in some mysterious way grinds out in the last session 640 pages of general laws, and in the coming session of 1915 in due proportion we may look for 1000 pages of new legislation.

On top of this pernicious influence come those who desire new places created for themselves and their dependents. In 1903 Oregon had 1000 appointments and commissions costing \$67,000 as the result of the session of the 1913 Legislature, and since that time we have 55 commissions, boards and agents having total appropriations of \$1,175,000. The figures show following increase in appropriations for state officials since 1903:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1903: \$119,000; 1913: \$1,175,000. Items include Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Board of Agriculture, Board of Horticulture, Labor Commissioner, and Public Commission.

These are only samples to show that the influence comes not from the much abused Legislature, but from predatory and parasitic parasites who prey upon the people but who need men in the Legislature who will stand off the horns that have forced our state taxes upon the people.

The Oregonian is a meek and lowly member of the vegetable kingdom, but it is nothing meek and lowly about the man who grew it last year, with the article selling at four or five times the price of the apple.

That old health officer in Spokane who suggests rubbing cheeks as a substitute for the world-old method of oscillation must have a stand-in with the safety razor people.

Author of Poem.

KNOX, Wash., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish the name of the author of the poem "Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?"

The Fly Campaign

Wake me early mother, With loud and noisy cry; For I and little brother, Go forth to swat the fly. And for a season, gaily Follow all our duties main.

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SOCIALISTS NO REPRESENTATION! Mr. Barzee Thinks They Have a Useful Franchise. PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—Your editorial concerning some of the persons for places on the Legislative ticket in Multnomah County is very much appreciated by thinking people.

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BUGLE CALL OF PEACE SOUNDED

UNDIGNIFIED TO THROW STONES AT ENGLAND, Asserts Correspondent. SPRINGFIELD, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—In this period of progress when nations are striving for ascendancy in that which makes for peace commensurate with the moral status we trust to have attained, it is beneath the dignity of our representatives to throw stones at England over the heads of our Government.

The American people know that England is not "hostile to America" as has been asserted. It is time for men of good political standing to cease such utterances; to use the strength of their united efforts to speak words of peacefulness that will be to all people a dignified expression of their worthiness to represent the people.

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED MOTHERS

They Bore Many Children, Lost Many and Died of Overwork. New York Times, Cor. You report that Mrs. John Jerome Rooney has administered a scolding to advanced women gathered at the Church of the Messiah.

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Twenty-five Years Ago From The Oregonian of March 21, 1889. Washington, March 20.—The Senate today rejected the nomination of Murat Halstead for Minister to Germany by a vote of 55 to 41.

The medical department of the University of Oregon last night graduated J. D. Fenton, C. M. Cornelius, J. W. Haines, J. P. Tammesle and H. A. Watt. Albany, March 30.—Captain Robinson and the three men from the schooner George H. Chance were found in a parlous situation near Nestucca Bay.

The funeral yesterday of William Doran was largely attended. In 1857 William Doran was employed as fireman on the old steamship Columbia between Astoria and San Francisco. In 1861 he went on the middle Columbia in the employ of Captain J. C. Alsworth and Colonel Ruckles and has been chief engineer of that route ever since.

The free bath fund is growing and over 250 subscribers. Among the latest contributors are Sims, a hatter, Gerald Robinson, Harry Boyd and Rev. T. L. Elliot.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 21, 1864. Arkansas is the first of the slave states to abolish slavery and return to the Union. Albany, March 30.—The Union state convention elected Wilson Bowley, president, and W. C. Whitson and W. J. Allen, secretaries.

The control of the Overland Press at Olympia has reverted to J. G. Abbott & Co. and it will still stand up for the Union.

National Advertisers

Need Newspapers Not so very long ago it was said that National advertisers needed newspapers. By National advertisers is meant all manufacturers, producers, or distributors that have anything to sell to the people of this country.

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