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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1914.

DO BUSINESS IN THE OPEN.

These are days of upheaval in the United States Senate. Old customs and privileges and courtesies are being cast aside. Our old friend seniority was given a severe blow at the organization of the present Congress. Courtesy does not restrain our impulsive Senator Lane from accusing his colleagues of doctoring reports. Senator Works proposes that Senators give up their precious patronage. Now nine Senators openly declare they will not be bound by the pledge of secrecy as to proceedings of executive sessions and demand that all sessions be open, with rare exceptions.

The executive session has always been more or less of a farce and with the passage of years has become more so. It has always been possible for a correspondent to worm the proceedings out of a friendly, talkative Senator, particularly when the Senator desired his favor and wished to give publicity to a particular version of the proceedings. There have been occasional denunciations of the talkers, but the Senate dares not bring them to account, for almost, if not quite, all of its members offend. The cause of truth would be served by frank publicity.

Public policy has been made the excuse for considering treaties in executive session, but speeches leak out, and probably more harm is done by the distorted versions of proceedings which reach the public than could result from open discussion. Senators who are anxious to get their views of foreign policy before the people find opportunities to discuss the subject in open session, and no means have been found of silencing them.

The Senate adheres most tenaciously to the executive session for considering appointments, probably because things are said on those subjects which would not look well in print. But even that precious prerogative is now assailed. Angered by a trick which brought about the confirmation of Mr. Daniels as Interstate Commerce Commissioner when they had a good chance of defeating it, nine progressive Republicans are in open revolt. There are good reasons for their protest in the Daniels case. Mr. Daniels' record is said to show a bias contrary to prevailing opinion on the regulation of public utilities. Had his record and qualifications been openly discussed, public opinion might have so influenced the Senate that some members who voted for confirmation would not have dared to do so openly. As the functions of the Government are extended and as more power is confided to executive officials, their qualifications become more a matter of public interest and therefore a legitimate subject of public discussion.

President Wilson is a champion of business in the open—that is, he was in 1912 and when he wrote "The New Freedom." He could use that great influence over Congress which he possesses to no better purpose than in persuading the Senate to do business in the open. If his appointments are made on grounds of fitness alone, he should have nothing to fear.

UP-TO-DATE SCHOOLS.

Education has taken a turn in Cook County, Illinois, which will blanch with terror the cheeks of certain pedagogues who learn and forget nothing. In a typical school of that section a "parcel post club" has been organized. The members are the schoolboys and girls. The purpose of the club is to supply certain city customers with eggs, green corn, radishes and other toothsome delights. The children bring the products of their gardens and henneries to school every morning. The club secretary gives credit to whom credit is due and the garnered harvest is promptly shipped away to some hungry city family. The receipts are divided among the producers in strict proportion to their contributions and the boys and girls do the dividing. That is one of their arithmetic exercises.

No stern mentor is required to make them do this task day after day as it arises. Their zeal is quenchless and the accuracy of their results is subjected to the all-sufficient test of conflicting self-interests. This does not end their practice in arithmetic. They have a way of studying percentage which is equally ominous of pedagogical revolution.

In fact they combine percentage, botany and agriculture in a way to make one's head swim. Their fathers are corngrowers. The schoolchildren test the vitality of the seed to be planted and determine what per cent of it is likely to germinate. The exercise is said to be almost as beneficial to them as examples printed in a textbook would be. By methods of this sort the Cook County schools are thrusting themselves into practical life and becoming a force in the business and recreation of their patrons.

But what pleases us most in their devices is the notion of parcel post clubs. There is no reason in the world why this invention should be confined to schoolchildren. Why should not their parents organize parcel post clubs to ship co-operatively supplies of produce to city customers? The postoffice is now open to business of this kind. Indeed it is more than open. The Government urgently invites farmers to ship their produce by mail. But evidently the invitation will be more or less futile as long as the producers remain unorganized.

The question how to get a cheap electric light is on the way to an answer. The problem is solved by collecting the free electricity which abounds in the air and conducting it by wires to the lamp. A Spanish experimenter lighted fifteen lamps by this process the other day. Of course it is but a short step from that to lighting a city. Atmospheric electricity is probably generated by the friction of the strata on one another as the earth rotates and the sun rises and sets. It seems therefore as if we were about to use the planetary machinery to light our dwellings by night.

NOT YET PURIFIED?

They say The Oregonian is soon to jump onto the famous Milwaukie Tavern and endeavor to close up this noted resort that has for years run despite almost everybody and every official. The Oregonian will be several years late, but the people will indorse its efforts, even if the real object is more to get West than the tavern.—Oregon City Courier.

The Oregonian has no militia at its beck and call and has not yet undertaken the herculean task of closing the notorious Milwaukie tavern.

Why didn't the Governor leave his militia on the job? What has become of the officials of Clackamas County? Why doesn't Uren abolish the Milwaukie tavern? Has the Courier no influence in its home county? What has become of that great temperance and prohibition crusader, George Brownell?

The Oregonian is surprised at the news from Clackamas about the tavern that will not stay suppressed. We really thought Clackamas County, seat of empire for both Brownell and U'Ren, twin suns of reform, had long ago been purified.

GETTING RESULTS FOR THE PUBLIC.

Twelve citizens of Multnomah County have responded to the public call to become candidates for the State Legislature. Of the twelve, nine had previously given the subject of their personal candidacy for any office no consideration; three only had already entered the primary.

The entire twelve are representative men who are seeking to discharge a public duty. They are men who are above the suspicion of personal interest or political purpose. They will go to Salem, if they shall be nominated and elected, with the definite aim of promoting economy and efficiency in state, county and city government. That is all. Most of them have had experience in legislation and they have been impressed in an unusual degree with the necessity of doing something worth while for the taxpayer and plain citizen.

Other good men are candidates for the Legislature from Multnomah, no doubt. But for various reasons it is desirable—it is highly important—to elect all twelve who have been named by more than 100 good citizens. They will work together. There can be no misunderstanding with the public, or among themselves as to why they shall have been chosen. They will get results for the people. They should be elected without an exception.

WOOL.

Before many more Democratic newspapers or individuals credit this year's higher wool prices to the Democratic free list and try to disconcert The Oregonian they would do well to read again the Democratic National platform.

That document denounced the Republican tariff policy on the ground that under it the "farmer sells largely in free markets and buys almost entirely in the protected marketa."

The Democratic platform also ascribes the high cost of living largely to a protective tariff. Yet the tariff on wool has been removed and the price of wool to the producer, and consequently to the consumer, has gone up.

It inevitably follows either that other elements have affected wool or that selling in a free market boosts the price of the farmers' products while free trade increases the prices paid by the consumer and adds to the high cost of living. Unless wool is an exception the theory of the Democratic tariff policy is absolutely at fault.

But raw wool has not for several years had the advantages of the tariff protection that the law purported to give it. It has long been the goat of tariff agitation and the effect, as has been vociferously complained of by growers in the Western press, has been that wool, though protected in theory, was in practice no better off than if on the free list. The Underwood bill was but the actual blow from a long-threatening club.

Wool prices this year do indicate, however, the measure of prosperity that would have been Oregon's had a duty on wool been definitely retained by the Democratic Administration and the menace to the industry thus wholly swept away. The woolgrowers would be receiving still higher prices. They are now selling in a free market and are paying protective prices for the articles into which wool is made. If to say this is "baiting the Wilson Administration," then the National platform of Mr. Wilson's party is equally guilty.

THE PRESIDENT AS AN EDITOR.

President Wilson has edited the lines which Dr. Charles W. Eliot composed for inscriptions upon the pavilions of the new postoffice building in Washington and it may be that in some particulars he has improved them. Whether that be so or not it is pretty certain that the distinguished ex-president of Harvard will regard Mr. Wilson's revisory work with resigned and philosophic calm. As one of our contemporaries, commenting upon the incident, remarks, both Dr. Eliot and President Wilson are used to being criticised and have learned not to eat their hearts out because they cannot always have their own way about literature or life. As Dr. Johnson puts it in Rasselas, "A man used to vicissitudes is not easily dejected," by editors or any other manifestation of unkindly nature.

Dr. Eliot suggested this for the east pavilion: "Carrier of news and knowledge, Instrument of trade and commerce, Promoter of mutual acquaintance among men and nations and hence of peace and good will." Mr. Wilson strikes out the word "commerce" and puts "industry" in place of it, so that this clause runs, "Instrument of trade and industry."

To our mind he has not improved it. The line is now cacophonous on account of the recurrence of the two syllables "in." "Commerce," of course, repeats the idea of "trade" and is therefore objectionable. Cannot some great genius be found who is able to get around both difficulties? Were we not too modest we should propose "instrument of trade and enterprise," which is a mellifluous line at the same time that it conveys the thought passably well.

The President has also altered the latter part of the inscription without enhancing its beauty or meaning. Dr. Eliot wishes to emphasize the truth that "mutual acquaintance among men and nations" is the prime source of "peace and good will." So he inserts the illative word "hence" in exactly the right spot. President Wilson strikes it out and writes simply that the postoffice is "the promoter of mutual acquaintance of peace and good will among men and nations." His version is less freighted with thought than Dr. Eliot's and no more pleasing to the ear.

But even with the President's faulty amendments the inscription is worthy of its place and of the American people, whose feeling it is meant to interpret.

SOUTHERN DIALECTS.

There has been some discussion in the newspapers lately about the varied beauties of the dialects which are spoken in the Southern states of the Union. According to writers who profess to be born and bred to these dialects and to know all about them their number is countless. Each section of country has one or more of its own by which an expert can locate the speaker's residence without hesitation. This is easy to believe. The poor whites who settled the Southern colonies in early days have moved about but little. In their mountain homes they have remained isolated for many decades, cherishing their own peculiar usages and heartily despising the dialectical forms common elsewhere. Thus innumerable local peculiarities have been kept alive.

This accounts for one part of the various Southern dialects. Another and no doubt a far more plenteous part, comes from the negroes. The children of many Southerners are reared by negro nurses. They play habitually with negro mates. Of course this play is not that of social equals. The negro boy or girl takes the place of a dog or kitten more than of a human comrade.

Still, whatever his social status may be, the playmate can talk and his mode of speech is indelibly impressed upon his playfellow's mind and tongue. Their intimate association with negroes year after year modifies the speech of almost all Southerners, nor are they ashamed of it. On the contrary they are rather proud of the "smoothness" and "gliding quality" which it imparts to their utterance.

This trend of Southern speech under negro influence could be paralleled by a great many similar consequences whenever a subject race lives intimately with its conquerors. It is well known that the conquered Greeks gave the Romans a rich assortment of vices as well as a literature. We Americans barely missed adopting bull fights from the Spaniards after we had defeated them in war. There is more likely to be an exchange of vices than of virtues between two races which have fought one another to a finish.

BRING PROSPERITY AND DO JUSTICE.

Prosperity was promised the country by the Democracy when it was given full control of the Government. We were promised lower cost of living when the tariff had been revised, but there is no perceptible decline in prices. We were promised greater export trade for our manufacturers, but the Government statistics do not show it. We were promised emancipation of business by the Underwood tariff and the currency law, but business is stagnant.

We may be informed that the effects of these measures can only be felt gradually, but the beneficial effects of another measure would be felt immediately. That is, the grant of the 5 per cent advance in freight rates asked by the railroads. That measure would immediately strengthen the credit of railroads, enabling them to make much-needed improvements in their lines and equipment. Those improvements would furnish employment to thousands of men, both on the railroads and in the mills which supply material. The buying power of these men would be increased, giving a stimulus to manufactures and consequently to traffic. This act of justice to the railroads would be an earnest of the Government's inclination to encourage investment with the prospect of a fair return and would, therefore, stimulate industry and enterprise generally. It would start things moving and thus end the prevailing stagnation. Prosperity is like a snowball; it grows with its progress. It needs only to be started and it will then travel with its own momentum and gather accretions as it goes.

Those who oppose the rate advance rehash old accusations against the railroads, many of which are out of date, for the abuses mentioned have been corrected. The railroads now cheerfully submit to National and state regulation. Some are accused of granting favors to large shippers in the shape of free switching and exorbitant allowances for industrial roads. Then let punishment be visited on them, not on the innocent with them. The fact that one exceptionally fortunate road, the New York Central, in 1913 showed an increase in percentage of net income to capital is cited as proof that the complaint of the railroads is unfounded. The broad fact remains that, taking thirty-five Eastern roads together, in the year 1913 their net earnings were $16,311,000 less than in 1910, though their investment was $659,000,000 greater. At this rate interest on capital will soon reach the vanishing point. Seeing this, investors fight shy of railroads and the public suffers in inadequate means of transit.

Wait till physical valuation is completed, say some, and then we shall have a basis for a decision. The Interstate Commerce Commission says valuation will take six years and the business of the country cannot be allowed to stagnate for that length of time. The Commission has not awaited valuation before making numerous reductions in rates; why should it wait before making an advance? Wages and taxes have been increased and are the chief cause of reduced net earnings, for gross earnings have increased. Prices of other commodities rise and fall with increase or decrease of costs; why should the price of transportation remain the same when its cost has risen?

The old cry is raised that the big capitalists ask the increase. The answer is that the railroads are falling into the hands of small capitalists. The Pennsylvania Railroad system alone has 100,000 stockholders and the large holdings of the principal roads are steadily being divided. The millions of depositors in savings banks and the millions of holders of life insurance policies are indirectly interested in railroads, for the funds of savings banks and insurance companies are invested in railroad securities. The interest which depositors and policy holders receive on their money is affected by railroad earnings. The big capitalists no longer own the railroads to anywhere near the extent to which they did; the people own them.

No criticism can fairly be made of the efficiency of American railroads. Their capital per mile is less, their service is better, their employes' wages are higher and their rates are lower than those of the railroads in any other country in the world. They have deserved well of the people and should be an object of pride to every American citizen; in fact they are, to every American who goes abroad and travels on foreign roads. They no longer interfere in politics; they sincerely try to serve the people and should be given the means to serve them better.

To advance rates is good policy, for it would promote prosperity of the country and improvement of the roads. It is justice, for the roads are entitled to fair interest on their investment, which they do not now receive. It is good politics, for if the present stagnation continues till next November, the party in power will get the blame without much inquiry whether it is deserved. If the Administration wishes to break the association between Democratic rule and hard times, it will adopt this ready means of bringing prosperity and at the same time doing justice.

Those who condemn vivisection because it inflicts pain on animals for the benefit of the human race may find comfort in the statement that it has resulted in discoveries which saved the lives of many animals. Pasteur's discovery of a vaccine treatment for anthrax reduced the deaths of sheep in France from 10 per cent to 1 per cent and of cattle from 5 per cent to a quarter of 1 per cent. It killed an epidemic of anthrax in Northern New York in 1906. Similar discoveries extinguished pleuro-pneumonia among Western cattle and have checked rabies in dogs, hog cholera and other diseases of animals.

Not enough sermons are preached against the heinous sin of marking up library books. The people who commit this offense fall into three classes, those who use indelible pencils and those who use ink. The first are worthy of the rockpile, the second of the penitentiary, the third of the gallows. If they ever marked a good passage one might forgive them, but they never do. They select infallibly the silliest. Their eye for nonsense equals the vulture's scent for carrion.

It is pleasant to think of seeing Sarah Bernhardt again in her bones, if not in her flesh. As a vaudeville queen she was a little out of her proper place. The audiences were not quite up to her and she could not descend to them. When she comes again it will be more seemly if she keeps to the legitimate stage and plays to people who remember how great she used to be. Even if they do not see the same greatness in her now, they will look and listen kindly for old sake's sake.

The intrigues of some of his court officials in the Irish crisis are said to have disgusted King George to the point where he has decided to democratize the court. We may yet see a Labor Unionist a Lord High Equerry or Master of the Foxhounds.

The Marion grand jury thinks $16.54 per capita cost of the penitentiary too high and would put the convicts at work to reduce it. But how shall they work? Not in competition with citizens, certainly, for that would breed trouble.

The first Minister of the new Chinese republic has arrived decked out in European garb. Now if he can acquire a cockney accent and a monocle he ought to feel right at home around the capital.

It now develops that Rockefeller is a heavy owner in Colorado mining property. If his interests continue to expand he shortly will find himself sighing for more worlds to acquire.

A Spanish inventor having demonstrated that electricty for lighting can be drawn from the air, no doubt that commodity will shortly enter our lungs through the medium of meters.

The Huerta government has decided to arrest all persons spreading alarming news about Torreon. That is one way of "holding" the place.

All good Christians are urged to spend a moment in prayer Friday noon. A word or two for the Administration would not be amiss.

With twelve responsible citizens willing to run for the Legislature from Multnomah County, taxpayers can draw an easier breath.

Bernhardt is coming for another tour of the United States. Is this to be her farewell farewell tour or merely another farewell tour?

Spanish subjects are being run out of Mexico by Villa. Which would not be if Spain had an army and navy worthy the name.

A Florida millionaire of 75 has secured an 18-year-old bride for $100,000. Moral: Marry early and get one for nothing.

The Portland buffalo bull is going to San Francisco for his health. The old fellow has a few human traits of character.

With Easter approaching, father discards the fragrant Havana once more and resumes his pungent pipe.

Huerta has cancelled the papers of the American Consul at Torreon. But Huerta has lost his say in Torreon.

Old John Barleycorn has been dishonorably discharged from the Navy.

That new skillet hat promises to be a hot article.

Oregon stone for Oregon buildings! Make it strong.

Chicago women will make history today.

GO TO SQUIRREL, THOU SLUGGARD

Writer Draws Lesson for Winter Idle From Industry of Small Animal.

HOOD RIVER, Or., April 5.—(To the Editor.)—I read in The Oregonian a few days ago that General Coxey will start soon for Washington with an army of idle men. So I am asking permission to offer a few reasons why something should be done in this country to stop this marching of men during the Summer and their loafing all Winter.

Summer is the time to work and I believe any man who is willing can find plenty of it to do. I am sure they could find work on farms, but most of them would rather stay in our cities and starve than work in the country. I am afraid the good people of our cities are making beggars of the idle by feeding them, instead of making them work for their food, and I believe the class of men fed in Portland last Winter will grow larger each year if the men know they will be cared for during the stormy season. I suppose a few of those were hardworking and honest men, but believe most of them belong to a class that spend all their wages in saloons and picture shows, instead of saving for a rainy day.

Now that Spring is with us, I will suggest that something be planned in Portland this Summer to give work to the unemployed next Winter. Living near my home in an oak tree is a little squirrel. She comes to my house nearly every day and scratches on my back door to let me know she is after nuts. As I keep a supply on hand I feed her, and it is with pleasure I watch her work. It makes no difference how hungry she is, if I give her a whole nut she will make a trip up the tree and put it away for Winter, but she will eat all I crack of them for her. I suppose the reason is, that cracked nuts won't keep until Winter time. At times I give her six or seven nuts and watch her take one after the other to her home and can see that making so many trips is hard work as she must stop many times, but when snow comes in Winter she has plenty of food for her little ones and herself.

I think some of the men of this country could learn a lesson from the squirrel and instead of being beggars become ambitious and happy men. But I am afraid many of them are like the darky who sold his heating stove in Summer so he could take his family to the circus. When a friend wanted to know why he didn't keep his stove for Winter, he said: "De Winter am a long way off, but de circus am today."

B. M. B.

Housewife Wants Meat Inspection.

PORTLAND, April 6.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly allow a housewife space for a few words in the meat inspection controversy. The meat inspection is certainly a vital point in our daily life, and I am sure I speak for the thousand homes when I sincerely urge our administration to give us satisfactory protection against bad meat.

Remarkable is it indeed to see what a sad confusion as to right and wrong there must be in some lawyers' and butchers' brains. According to a recent report in The Oregonian, one lawyer ridicules, that the law shall tell butchers what to sell or not, and another that inspectors be allowed to condemn meat unfit for food because it will cause loss to the butcher.

A man who cannot live on anything else than to sell us poisonous meat is certainly an undesirable citizen and has no right to exist. There must be an honest, useful way of living for us all, or we are parasites and ought not to be excused. The talk about expenses in this case is quite malplaced. There seem to be many aroused when the talk is about water meters; much more necessary it is to see that we are not poisoned. Let us have a proper, adequate meat inspection here as in other civilized countries, where no meat whatever is sold without inspection.

HOUSEWIFE.

Give Us Competent Officials.

PORTLAND, April 5.—(To the Editor.)—The move to induce competent business men to run for the office of Assemblyman or Legislator is one of the best schemes that has come up for a long time, and the only way to weed out the graft that is burdening the people to death. The idea of men of small means and intelligence spending time and money seeking an office that pays in honest money less than the average laborer gets is bad on the face of it.

"A fool or grafter in office is more dangerous than a fool with a gun." A grafting official ought to be court-martialed and shot like a hydrophobic dog. He is a disgrace to civilization. While they are not all grafters, their work is so shamefully incompetent that the results are practically the same. Boost for good men, competent men, and honest men.

W. R. HAIZLIP.

Good Sense.

Strand.

To Lady Cardigan, by the way, is attributed the following somewhat pert comment, when a very ignorant person was complimented on his good sense in her presence:

"I don't wonder," she said, "at his possessing a large stock of good sense. He never spends any."

WHO KNOWS?

Alone on lonely roads while nature sleeps
And distant bell the midnight hour does toll,
A Weeping Willow tree here kindly keeps
Beneath its shroud a blighted human soul.
A gentle Zephyr sweeping softly by
Makes shiv'ring leaves seem nervous of their care:
The glit'ring stars are blinking from on high
And seem to watch that here no ills can fare.

Beneath this shroud a mother's darling lies,
A fantom shadow of her former bloom.
With wringing hands and quiv'ring lips she cries:
"Take me to you, Oh Lord, make this my doom!"—
The voice is stilled, the tearful eyes grow dim,
And trembling hands are sinking by her side.—
No more to her the "Serpent's tongue" can cling;—
She rests—at last—she bridged the "Great Divide."

A mother's hope, a father's only pride
Lies here accursed by ignorance and creed;
Where "Lords of Gold" and priestly saints deride
A mother's prayer for "Justice" to be freed.
Shall she condemned on altar's fire be laid
For you and me to mock, deride and hate?
Are human souls by Master's hand so made,
That love at best, might meet this self-same fate?

Where art thou man that can in judgment sit
Upon thy throne of arrogance and scorn;
When twilight thoughts, by conscience's lamp be lit
With knowledge that of woman thou art born?
Was she a wreck through Nature's hand or those
Who curse, condemn and never will forbear?
Who knows, but she, the blighted human rose,
In yonder realm the "Golden Crown" shall wear?

P. K. ENEBO.
Portland, Or.

LOGICAL RESULT OF RATIONALISM

It Leads to Pessimism or Lower Plane of Being, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, April 5.—(To the Editor.)—We have been hearing at the Public Library lecture hall Sunday nights an exposition of religion from the rationalist point of view, to which I want to take exception. I desire to point out the hopeless inadequacy of the rationalist explanation of religion.

Religion is an instinctive reaching out of the human spirit toward the infinite. Therefore religion justifies itself and is above reason. The man who takes reason as his final guide in all things is rather to be pitied than condemned. He drifts from nothing to nowhere. He finds, sooner or later, that he has been laying nought but "the foundations for unyielding despair." The world-order becomes meaningless and life itself without ultimate aim or purpose. The logical outcome of rationalism is either pessimism, cynicism or sensualism. Religion alone can lift man to the higher planes of being.

True, in a limited way, reason aids us in ordering a few transient, superficial interests of life. Mankind has long admitted that it serves a certain practical purpose when applied to the workaday world. But in the life of the soul reason plays no part. Religion expresses this life of the spirit. It is a higher function of life than reason or intelligence. It supplies needs that reason can never satisfy.

Art, music and poetry at their best are admittedly outpourings of the soul, as it seeks to reveal one phase of its nature. Similarly religion is the spiritual expression of the finest and sublimest impulses of humanity, striving to understand and attain perfection, or God. What rationalist who still retains vestiges of the finer insight would think of denying the beauty and truth in poetry, music and art? Are not these values immediately felt without recourse to logical process or analysis? If this be granted, how much more absurd, if not indeed presumptuous, to attempt to reduce religious values to rational categories.

In fact, when we examine the rationalist's activities carefully we find him eventually discarding his own all-sufficient touchstone and falling back on a dogmatic, individualistic mysticism. He himself comes to feel the barrenness of reason in supplying the more subtle emotional and spiritual needs of humanity.

How does the rationalist find at least a measure of inward harmony and contentment? By affirming passionately his own liberty, or the dignity of mankind, or the rights of the oppressed, or the need for nobility of character, or the sacredness of life, or the beauty of devotion to an ideal. But these declarations, often put forth with an evangelistic fervor, are themselves arbitrary and quite independent of any process of thinking. Reason can never prove them true. They are felt to be true by those who announce them because they are of that order of truth which presents a claim for validity to our consciousness for immediate acceptance. These are the intuitional urgings that surpasses intelligence.

Thus the rationalist turns mystic, often without realizing it. Failing to see that his own ideas and activity spring from the mysterious forces that pulse and throb within the human spirit, he not infrequently becomes the most intolerant of dogmatists. He refuses to concede the value of truth of any mysticism but his own. He thunders denunciations and anathemas as if he were the infallible source of all things final and good. In short, he goes on his destructive way until he sinks into the grave, unless redeemed by an inner illumination that dawns upon his path and brings sweetness and a widely inclusive love akin to the divine into his life and work.

EX-RATIONALIST.

EVENT OF WIDESPREAD BENEFIT

Everybody Should Be Interested in Willamette Valley Chautauqua.

CANBY, Or., April 5.—(To the Editor.)—Swollen buds, opening flowers, caroling feathered songsters, and the calendar, each announces the presence of an annual seed time. Nature in her multifarious moods and voices, is always anticipating and advertising the coming presence and purpose of her regular events. While patiently watching for, and quietly listening thereto, it seemed that something as "the voice of many waters" was saying, and constantly singing—or ought to be constantly thus engaged—in calling out the fact that the old Willamette Valley Chautauqua Assembly, at its historic trysting place, in Gladstone, Or., where rolls the pure green-blue Clackamas, will in this good year of grace outdo by far any of its former successful sessions.

And why not? This oldest and most successful Chautauqua of the state, now out of its financial embarrassment, and thus "out of the woods," can and will be, by leaps and bounds and more to follow, the best ever had in its history of a score of years. Everybody from the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the east, to the purpling waves of the sundown sea on the west, and from Eugene City on the south, to "where rolls the Oregon" on the north, is, and ought to be more greatly and vitally interested in this leading annual outing school of the state. While this school of intellectual and moral ethics is situated near Oregon City, and is one of that city's best social and moral assets, yet in its larger sense it is as much the property of the entire Willamette Valley, from which it takes its name. So that every city, every county and every organization of people in state or church within its legitimate territory is indebted thereto and more or less affected favorably thereby and should, therefore, give thereto their united sympathy and best possible support. Every newspaper in the territory owes it alike to itself and its patrons to give liberal and sympathetic space to its support. The school superintendents and teachers of every county owe it to posterity to cultivate sympathetic regard for this Summer school of fine promise in its exceptional curriculum and grade. Every pastor of every church, loyal to the National flag, owes an obligation to this institution, which would impel occasional public statements, sermons or addresses from them favorable to the enterprise.

The Grange organizations of the whole country and the civic and social clubs of every city and town in its patronizing territory should be able to see an able and popular ally to that of their own work in this assembly, that would put them into cordial and helpful sympathy therewith. Portland, Salem, Albany and Eugene, with the leading towns of the west side of the valley, should each have its day upon the annual programme of its sessions. Every public and private educational institution of the territory, of at least academic grade, should have ample and creditable headquarters upon the assembly campus annually, as should every church denomination, loving the "Star Spangled Banner" of the Union. Let this all be attended to in time, and in the proper spirit, and the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Assembly shall have come into its own which it so richly deserves.

A. J. JOSLYN.
Canby, Or.

No.

NEHALEM, Or., April 2.—(To the Editor.)—Can a caucus, or assembly of voters, legally nominate more than one person for each office? This is being discussed with much excitement in this place, some insisting that two or more nominees can be placed on the ballot for each office by one assembly, if such is the will of the assembly. This is a town of less than 2000 inhabitants.

AGNES RANDLE.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of April 7, 1889.

The heaviest snowstorm of the season prevails throughout the East.

Washington, April 6.—Max Pracht, of Ashland, Or., has been recommended to the President for Collector of Customs at Sitka.

Colfax, W. T., April 6.—The Northern Pacific Railroad Company placed a line of steamers on the Snake River yesterday in opposition to those of the O. R. & N. Co.

Salem, April 6.—Articles of incorporation of the Home Investment Company were filed yesterday by E. R. Adams, C. J. Reed, B. B. Tuttle, Ralph W. Hoyt and N. L. Boise.

Albany, April 6.—The Oregon Pacific Railroad Company is considering bids for contracts on the eastward extension of its line.

Berlin, April 6.—The Emperor has freely expressed a determination to make Germany a naval power of the first rank.

Miss Maude Flitcock, after visiting relatives and friends the past three months, has returned to her home in Victoria, B. C.

The wedding of Miss Kate Goodwin and G. B. Markle, Jr., will be celebrated some time before June 5.

Mr. Ed Wright, the city editor of the Astoria Pioneer, is visiting the city.

J. C. Todd has been circulating a petition asking that the franchise granted the Transcontinental Street Railway Company for extending its tracks on Twenty-first street from S to the stables, be annulled.

Hon. L. T. Barin, of Oregon City, chairman of the Republican state central committee, returned yesterday from Washington.

Rev. Dr. Dietrich, pastor of the German Lutheran Church of this city, will start for Dakota this evening to get his family. He will bring with him a number of German families to make their homes near Portland.

George Langford yesterday took a contract to point the stonework, build the steps and grade the courts of the big hotel.

The will of the late Mrs. Esther Holladay was filed for probate yesterday. In bequeaths the entire estate, worth not over $240,000, to her two children, Linda and Ben Campbell Holladay.

H. Segel drove a delivery wagon on the sidewalk on Fourth street, East Portland, yesterday, when the timbers of the elevated roadway gave way and he and the team were precipitated into the slough 25 feet below. Segel's arm was broken and one of the horses had to be shot.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of April 7, 1864.

The recent enormous frauds on the Government are arousing general attention to the necessity of having honest and efficient officers in civil as well as military departments. The evil mainly grows out of the present system of appointments to office as rewards for political service. One remedy may be found in the system of examinations of competitors for office adopted by European governments.

The authorities of some of the states east of the Rocky Mountains are becoming alarmed at the wonderful rush of the people towards the Pacific and are putting out paper vetoes against any movement. Governor Stone, of Iowa, has issued a proclamation to prevent the great exodus to the Idaho mines and thereby avoid the draft.

We hear of a farmer from Douglas County who went up the Columbia on Tuesday by the Wilson G. Hunt with his team, wagon and 2000 pounds of bacon. He consumed 14 days in reaching this city from his home, and will proceed by land from The Dalles to La Grande, where he proposes to sell out.

The clipper schooner Jenny Jones has been libeled, together with 20 casks of ale and 20 casks of porter. The case was before Judge Deady in the United States District Court on Tuesday.

Communication is still cut off beyond Salem. The damage done to the telegraph line by the recent storm is immense. Seven trees were blown across it btween Aurora and Salem. S. Snyder came from Vancouver yesterday to put it in order.

W. C. T. U. Doubly Bereaved.

PORTLAND, April 6.—(To the Editor.)—The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Oregon has just experienced a great bereavement in the death of their beloved state president, Mrs. Edith Hill Booker, and ere her body is laid to rest there flashes over the wires news of the calling home of our National president, Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens. That a great thinker, statesman and remarkably talented woman has passed out, no one will question. Her distinguished qualities were recognized not only by the organization she has so ably and successfully represented for 18 years, but by the world over. As vice-president of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, she gave proof of her marvelous ability and efficiency as a leader in world-wide movements.

That there will be no confusion in the plans of the great organization we are assured. Her trained and efficient staff of workers will develop her plans without a break. We of Oregon, who realize her worth and gladly followed her leadership, are plunged by her going into a grief which no words can express.

Officers Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Oregon, by

MRS. W. SWOPE.

Thaw's Lawyer.

PORTLAND, April 6.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise who the leading attorney for Harry K. Thaw is and his postoffice address.

INQUIRY.

William A. Stone, Frick building Annex, Pittsburg, Pa.

32 Pounds Is Right.

PAULINA, Or., April 1.—(To the Editor.)—How many pounds of oats are there in a bushel according to Oregon Law? It was 32 pounds, but some say it has been changed to 36 pounds.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Footwear Fancies

Every woman loves dainty footwear. In former years she had comparatively little opportunity to gratify her fancy in this respect.

Now every color and style of footwear is in use from the most exquisite evening slipper to the sturdiest boot.

Leathers in colors never seen before, fabrics of numberless shades and patterns, heels that range from a single "lift" through every conceivable curve to a three inch "Louis," tongues and buckles, ribbons and buttons—All are waiting to delight the eye of the discriminating woman.

You can learn from the advertisements in The Oregonian what the retailers are prepared to sell you and the prices thereof.

Read these announcements carefully and save time in making your selections.