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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1914.

PORTLAND'S PRIMACY PROVED.

The poll of National banks as to preference for location of Federal reserve banks, as taken by the organization committee, shows Portland to be far in the lead among cities of the Pacific Northwest, especially when the votes of Oregon, Washington and Idaho alone are considered. As presented to the House by Representative Glass, the poll for the twelfth district was:

CITIES	Washington	Oregon	Idaho	California	Nevada	Utah	Arizona, Northern Dist.	Total
San Francisco	8	16	8	208	5	6	5	256
Portland	9	56	10					75
Seattle	40							40
Salt Lake			12		2	13		27
Spokane	16	1	9					26
Los Angeles				24			2	26
Chicago			2			1		3
New York			2	2				4
Omaha			2					2
Fresno				1				1
Minneapolis			1					1
Denver			1					1
Total	73	73	45	235	7	20	7	460

The three contestants for a reserve bank in this section were Portland, Seattle and Spokane. Study of the above table will show that Portland received more votes than the other two cities combined, namely, seventy-five against forty for Seattle and twenty-six for Spokane. All of Seattle's forty votes came from Washington, while Portland received nine from that state and ten from Idaho. At that, Oregon's vote was divided, fifty-six going to Portland, sixteen to San Francisco and one to Spokane. Oregon was far more nearly united for Portland than Washington was for Seattle, for this city received fifty-six of seventy-three Oregon votes, while Seattle received only forty of Washington's seventy-three. Idaho's forty-five votes were badly scattered, but Salt Lake alone was ahead of Portland.

Limitation of the total number of reserve banks and lack of the required amount of capital combined to prevent location of a reserve bank in the Pacific Northwest, but the effort to secure one has brought about a "showdown" which proves Portland to be far in the lead as the financial center of this section. It also proves that, had the location of a bank in this section been practicable, Portland would have been the logical choice. Discussion of the subject has settled that point and has put Portland in a strong position for the time when development shall justify rearrangement of the districts and establishment of a reserve bank in the Pacific Northwest.

SYSTEMATIC WATER DEVELOPMENT.

A decided step in advance was made by the Columbia and Snake River Waterways Convention when it took the broad ground that all the resources of the Columbia and its tributaries should be developed together. This should be done on the general lines of the Newlands bill, for each use of the water is closely related to the other uses and by treating each as part of a whole we can promote it better than by treating each apart from the others.

Deep water navigation will be aided by upper river navigation, for the latter will increase the volume of traffic and will cheapen its handling at the transfer point. Upper river navigation will be aided by deep-sea navigation, for ocean transportation will be cheapened and markets broadened. Power development will aid both forms of navigation, for it will furnish power to operate locks on the upper river, machinery at the docks, electric roads to the interior and to run machinery and furnish light to cities and farms in all the tributary country. It can thus be made to pay a large part if not all of the interest on the cost of canalizing the river. It can be used to pump water to arid land and thus to aid irrigation. The very means by which the river is made navigable can thus be applied to producing traffic and carrying that traffic to the river. A close parallel can be made to that impossible feat—lifting oneself by one's bootstraps.

Closely related to the direct use of the water are forest and soil preservation. By forest preservation, not only is a continuous supply of timber insured, but the flow of the river is so regulated that it remains, as nearly as possible, even the year around. This is necessary for navigation, power and irrigation. By preventing soil erosion, the fertility of the land is preserved and the traffic to navigate the river and to use its power is maintained. The flow of the river is also guarded against extremes of flood and drought.

The merit of the Newlands bill is that it contemplates improvement of each great watershed for all uses as a unit. It provides for co-ordination of all the several bureaus and departments which have hitherto worked independently. It also provides funds for continuous work, not leaving the improvement dependent on the parsimony or prodigality of Congress. It provides a business-like means of developing and managing the National water resources for all purposes.

In the heat of their zeal, political orators sometimes say things which return to plague them and their leaders after the event. In the recent Congressional campaign in the Paterson district of New Jersey, Democrats freely said that defeat of their candidate would be "taken as a personal insult" to the President, would dishonor New Jersey and would show the voters' judgment of the Administration. The Democrat was defeated and hence, according to his own spokesmen, the President is insulted, his Administration condemned and his state dishonored. The Republicans in the House were given a fine opportunity to crow, and of course they crowed. Spellbinders should really leave a hole to crawl through, in case they should be defeated.

HUERTA'S BACK-DOWN.

Huerta's back-down, provided he actually fires the stipulated salute, is not really the great cause for felicitation that Secretary Bryan and other peace-at-any-price officials make of it. The fundamentals of the trouble in Mexico will be quite unchanged except, perhaps, for an added touch of anti-American sentiment. The salute will not end Huerta's bankruptcy nor the state of anarchy that stifles Mexico. Nor will the presence of a greatly-increased naval force in Mexican waters sober the Mexicans into a stable government.

If Huerta has yielded on realizing that we no longer bluff, it merely shows that he would have yielded long ago had President Wilson taken a firm stand; would have yielded to the demand for his own elimination. Thus the growth of chaos would have been ended and Mexico might have been saved, with help of a constructive nature from the United States.

LESS THEORY; MORE RETRENCHMENT.

Of all the musty theories on governmental economy perhaps the mustiest is the one that new sources of tax revenue will cause a reduction of the general tax levy. Yet here it bobs up again, pungent with the mold of demonstrated inefficiency, in the Pendleton East Oregonian.

We don't spend too much money; the public's income is not what it should be. Direct taxation does not answer the purpose from the revenue-raising standpoint. If we could raise more money through inheritance taxation and from similar sources, it would be possible to reduce the direct tax and still have more money than at present for governmental purposes. So runs the argument.

The same argument was spread when the laws to impose gross earnings taxes on private car companies, telephone, telegraph and express companies were up for adoption. It was presented in behalf of the plan to create a tax commission empowered to fix the tax values on railroads and similar public utilities. It was used in support of the present inheritance tax law. Something similar has been offered in behalf of a 100 per cent valuation of all property.

Taxes are now collected from the sources named and the tax value has mounted nearer and nearer to the true value of property assessed. We have a tax commission that is supposed to impose diligence upon county taxing officers and there has been a general effort for several years to seek out escaping property and put it on the rolls. Yet the tax levy has gone higher and higher. Revenues have increased immensely, but expenditures have continued to overtake and pass them.

There is no sound argument against making taxation equable or against seeking new legitimate sources of public revenue, but as means of reducing the general tax burden both plans are flat failures, so long as the public ignores carelessness, extravagance and duplication in government. Rather, increased revenues, under such circumstances, are an incitement to greater carelessness, extravagance and duplication.

The state revenues from corporation taxes, inheritance taxes, automobile licenses, fish and game licenses and the like have been acquired in whole or large part in the last few years. Between 1905 and 1913 the state's population increased only 300,000. Yet in the same period the direct taxes, in spite of new or enlarged indirect revenues, increased from $1,000,000 in 1905 to a total for state purposes in 1913 of $4,165,000.

It is a safe prediction that the public's demand for economy in government will not be sidetracked this year by pleas for changes in the tax laws. The public mind is centered on retrenchment. The people intend to have it.

RUSSIA INCITES JAPAN.

An example of how an offense to one nation affects our relations with another, which is in no way concerned, is to be found in an article in the Novoe Vremya, the semi-official organ of the Russian government, which has been translated by the Literary Digest.

We offended Russia by denouncing the commercial treaty when she refused to treat alike all American citizens who crossed her borders. Japan is offended by the California alien land law and by President Wilson's failure to procure its annulment, owing to his excessive respect for state rights. Russia now, through the Novoe Vremya, egges on Japan to fight the United States and to repair her failure to realize expectations of an outlet for her surplus population in Manchuria and Corea by seizing the Philippines and Hawaii.

The Russian organ says the United States has stopped the immigration of Japanese, and continues:

> Until recent days Mexico was open to the latter, whither the stream of Japanese emigration has been turned. With the completion of the Panama Canal, Mexico will fall under the shadow of the United States, and the day is not distant when it will cease its independent political existence. At the same time one of the promised lands will be closed to Japan.
>
> A clash between the United States and Japan is thus preparing of itself, despite the will and intentions of diplomats. New lands suitable for the settlement of large popular masses are a vital necessity to Japan. Either land—or national death.

Japan is said to be alarmed at the thought that "the near opening of the Panama Canal is to Japan equivalent to the closing of the doors of America." Japan's war with Russia is styled a chimerical struggle and the Japanese are told they missed a favorable opportunity to strengthen themselves "where their National instinct impelled them to go—the islands of the Pacific and the farther shore." An incitement to war with the United States is to be seen in the statement that "it is impossible to acquire new lands by political demonstrations and verbal fraternization with the Mexicans."

The Japanese are reminded of their real or supposed wrongs at the hands of Americans. They are told that they are "ranked among the lower races"; that "the Western states, in which there have remained Japanese colonists, have been heaping upon them humiliating disabilities." The school dispute and the land dispute are recalled and we are accused of having "organized 'pogroms' against the Japanese" and placed them "in the position of despised pariahs."

Japan is twitted with having missed her chance, the Novoe Vremya saying:

> But Japan was exhausted by her exploits in Manchuria, and sacrificed her rights and her dignity. True, in expectation of better times, she hastily continued her armaments. But on the day of the opening of the Panama Canal, which gives the United States the possibility of transferring, in case of necessity, their battleship squadrons from one ocean to the other, the military chances of Japan will be lessened. And if she bore patiently the violation of her legal rights before the opening of the canal, she will hardly have the courage to insist upon them now.

But Japan's land-hunger is stimulated and her enmity to the nations which deny it gratification is stirred up in this wise:

> Nevertheless, the tendency toward warm waters and fertile, uninhabited lands caused by the scarcity of land in Japan will remain in full force and seek an outlet.
>
> Will the international diplomatic sorcerers be able to direct this live current into a false channel once more?

Here is a plain hint to Japan to leave the mainland of Asia to Russia and to seek an outlet in sunnier and more fruitful climes. Russia seeks at one stroke to promote her own designs and to take revenge on the United States for the slight we have put upon her. We touched a Russian nerve and the reaction is felt in Japan and Mexico.

Had President Wilson in mind the Russian intrigue, Japan's resentment and the growing intimacy between Japan and Mexico when he spoke of those matters "of greater delicacy and nearer consequence"?

A SENSIBLE GRAND JURY.

We think the Gold Beach grand jury showed extraordinary good sense in the way it handled two "accidental" shooting cases at its April session. In both instances hunters "mistook men for deer," and the persons whose eyesight was so lamentably defective were indicted for manslaughter. Every man who goes into the woods with a gun ought to be held strictly accountable for what he shoots. It is his business to know whether the object before him is a deer or a man. If he does not know, then let him fire at his peril.

Human life is too valuable to be sacrificed because some hotheaded hunter does not care to ascertain just what it is that he is aiming at. He discerns an object through the branches which may possibly be a deer or a bear. On the other hand, it may be a human being. Quite frequently it is a human being, but the zealous hunter is very much in the habit of assuming that the obscurely-discerned mark is a wild beast. His readiness to take the risk results in the slaughter of dozens of men every year.

In all such cases the rash hunter is morally a murderer and he ought to be deemed such in law. The Gold Beach grand jury has set a good example by dealing out rigorous justice to one guilty pair. It is hoped that other jurymen will be equally mindful of their duty as the season advances and accidents accumulate.

There is another aspect of this matter which is worth a thought. Suppose a man wishes to dispose of an enemy. All he has to do is to follow him into the woods and shoot him "by accident." It must be the easiest thing in the world, almost, to mistake a man for a deer when one wishes to kill him. With the pious deed of vengeance accomplished the hunter can return home in perfect confidence that an old-fashioned jury will hold him guiltless. A person ought not to be punished for an "accident," even when the accident is premeditated. The Gold Beach grand jury has broken with this fashion and human life will be the safer for its action. It will be a satisfaction if the trial jury shows the same good sense.

FEDERAL SYSTEM FOR BRITAIN.

Great Britain is steadily turning toward the Federal system of government as the way out of many difficulties. It has already applied that system to the government of its great colonies, Canada, Australia and South Africa. It is now in violent controversy over the establishment of autonomy in one of the three home kingdoms. Its Premier and Foreign Minister have each declared the need for autonomy for each of the other two kingdoms and for Wales. The subject is widely discussed in English publications, particularly the reviews and weekly newspapers. It is one of the coming issues, for public opinion is steadily molding itself, and it will in a few years be the burning issue.

A separate legislature for each kingdom under the supreme power of the Imperial Parliament is seen to be the logical sequel to Irish home rule. Were that the only reason for federalism, it would not be considered seriously, for the British people do not worry about logic; they have a happy faculty of finding a way out of difficulties regardless of logic. They incline to federalism because they see its necessity and they would have adopted it much sooner had not the opposition to home rule for Ireland restrained them, for federalism was seen to involve Irish home rule. Now that Irish home rule seems an early probability, England, Scotland and Wales are beginning to assert their right to the same degree of self-government.

The growth of the British Empire is seen to have rendered necessary that the Imperial Parliament shall be relieved of the burden of legislating for the internal affairs of any of the empire's component parts and shall devote its time entirely to matters of general concern. This necessity has become the more imperative since governments have become more paternal and have undertaken to regulate those affairs which come under the general head of social and industrial justice. In the effort to do all things which it conceived should be done, Parliament has been compelled to neglect many measures of real urgency. Many of these measures, as well as many of those it has passed, would devolve upon a local legislature. A federal system in the mother country would clear the way for realizing the dream of imperial federation by admission to the Imperial Parliament of representatives of the colonies and dependencies. The latter could then be made to share the burden of defense, and possibly an imperial customs union could be devised. The empire could be made a well-knit whole, with a supreme parliament similar to our Congress and local parliaments similar to our State Legislatures.

Such a federal system would differ in essential points from those of the United States, Germany and Switzerland. In each of those countries the separate states were originally sovereign and surrendered to the general government certain defined powers. Those powers cannot be enlarged or diminished without the consent of the states. In Great Britain all power would flow from the central government, for the local governments would exercise only such functions as were delegated to them. Those functions could be increased or diminished by federal law. There could be no state rights question and no twilight zone, as with us. There would be no opportunity to defeat justice by playing off the federal and state courts against each other. In every case it would be known whether jurisdiction rested in the one or the other.

Federalism would produce a new alignment of parties. There would be no occasion for an Irish Nationalist party to continue, for that party would have gained its end. A Labor party need no longer exist in the Imperial Parliament, for that body would doubtless empower the local parliaments to deal with the measures the Labor party seek. There would be more probability of renewed division into two parties, and the central government would be stronger for the change.

The creature whom the police caught drinking paregoric was the victim of a common vice. Paregoric is a preparation of opium which fond mothers give to babies to hush their cries. It lulls grown men the same as babies. It is one of the most deceitful of the many forms of opium and probably does more harm than all the rest, since it begins its work upon infants. Paregoric, cinnamon essence and chloral hydrate are often used by "reformed" sots to appease their craving for alcohol. They would be better off unreformed.

The murder of Calmette, the editor of Figaro, will have some interesting consequences in the artistic world. Rodin the sculptor wished to give a collection of his statues to the government. Calmette thought them "unfit for exhibition" and, through his paper, bullied the government into refusing them. Now that he is dead, France will accept the statues and one of the greatest of modern sculptors will receive the honor due him. Thus good sometimes comes out of evil.

German investigators have found that radium acts powerfully on dormant plants. After a few hours' exposure to the emanation lilac buds sprang into vigorous growth at the end of November, a time when they are ready for their Winter's sleep. Other plants show similar effects. The practical result of these experiments will be a great development of Winter gardening and orchardry. Fruits and vegetables all the year round at modest prices are almost in plain sight.

Some people think it wonderful that Dr. Marcellus should find so much more rabies than his predecessors in the Health Office. We can imagine two fairly good reasons for the marvel. In the first place, he keeps his eyes open instead of shut. In the second place, rabies, like other diseases of men and beasts, is sometimes common and sometimes rare. Just now rabies is alarmingly common and Dr. Marcellus deserves gratitude for his efforts to eradicate it.

A wise man may be swindled once, but only a fool twice by the same trick. What then shall we call the farmer near Buffalo whom a confidence man relieved of $15,000 on his first visit and $12,000 on his second? Many farmers are so suspicious of the banks that they hide their cash in the cellar wall, but so gullible that they hand it over to the first gilb swindler who asks for it. Human nature is full of contradictions, most of which cost it money.

A canalized Columbia from mouth to head waters is an alluring vision. The engineering feat, once finished, would redeem from flood and bog fertile land enough to pay for it. Better yet, it would rid the Columbia bottoms of the unendurable mosquito pest, while of course it would open a navigable channel thousands of miles long. Why not go ahead and do it? Germany canalized the Rhine and did it without much fuss either.

In imposing a large fine on Whitney, the San Francisco clubman who pleaded guilty to a charge of white slavery, Judge Dooling showed a keen sense of humor in making the penalty big enough to surprise the defendant.

Curry County men who "thought it was a deer" have been indicted for manslaughter. It is high time to set an example and teach hunters to look twice before they fire.

Although the fleet will arrive in Mexican waters on the anniversary of the war with Spain, it seems quite possible that history will not repeat itself.

A taxi-driver in Walla Walla killed himself because he couldn't afford to buy a larger taxi. Ambition for great wealth often proves dangerous.

The most doleful object on earth is the boy who stands outside the gate because he has not the price of a ticket.

The suspicion rises that the Greasers have been merely having a little innocent fun with the Administration.

With the opening game over, the leading question now is, who will be queen of the Rose Festival?

What a lot of love will be expressed when the American and Mexican guns exchange greetings.

Oregon's oldest woman is dead at 117. This is the land of longevity.

Breathes there a man with soul so dead that he hasn't registered?

Should late frosts nip the fruit, there will be plenty left.

No doubt Huerta is greatly enjoying himself at our expense.

Hon. Lafe Pence is frisky despite his years.

Who thinks of pneumonia on opening day?

Coxey should march down and join Villa.

Old J. Pluvius also backed down.

Make no other plans for Sunday.

A ball park is a democracy.

BETTER LEGISLATORS THE NEED.

Reforms in Lawmaking Are Also Suggested by I. S. Smith.

MARSHFIELD, Or., April 14.—(To the Editor.)—The plan of Portland in urging 12 of her leading citizens to stand for the nomination of State Representative on a platform of economy and efficiency, should be adopted by every county in Oregon.

That too many laws are enacted and too much money appropriated by the Legislature all must admit. But the important question is, what are we going to do about it? First in importance, I suggest publicity. Since many of the members of the last Legislature are candidates either for re-election or for some higher office, a complete record of each member giving the amount of appropriations voted for; the number of votes cast to raise the salary of some public official; creating new official positions, etc., would make interesting reading for the electors and serve as a warning to future legislatures against extravagance and reckless legislation.

Many unnecessary laws, as well as excessive appropriations, are the result of inefficiency and inexperience on the part of a large per cent of legislators. A careful business man would not employ a bank cashier, a manager for a store, factory, or farm, who had no knowledge of that particular line of work, but the people frequently send men to the legislature who have but slight conception of needed legislation or the requirements of state institutions; apparently overlooking the fact that they have power to spend millions of dollars of the people's money.

I expect to introduce a resolution at the next session of the Legislature, submitting a Constitutional amendment to a vote of the people providing a four year term for Representatives. If this resolution passes and is approved by the people the Legislature would always have at least 45 experienced members.

Another abuse is the perfunctory manner in which the joint committees from the House and Senate investigate and report on the needs of the various state institutions. In place of appointing members with a view to their fitness for the position, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate usually pay a political debt by appointing members who desire to be placed on a certain committee. Provision should be made for one or more committees composed of members of well known business judgment and honesty to make a thorough investigation of all state institutions, during vacation, and submit a detailed report to the next Legislature of the needs of the various institutions and the amount of money necessary for their proper maintenance. Such committee should, of course, be paid a reasonable compensation for their services. From half a million to a million dollars can be saved by every legislature by the exercise of business methods and honest effort on the part of its members.

A forty-day session as provided by the Constitution which was adopted more than a half a century ago is entirely inadequate for the careful consideration of the vast amount of business that comes before the legislature of the present day. The last session considered nearly 1000 bills, besides many memorials and resolutions. It is to be hoped that the Constitutional amendment, providing for a longer session, will be adopted at the next election. I joined with President Malarkey in a resolution, at the last session, proposing to submit to the people a constitutional amendment limiting the members to five bills each, but the resolution was defeated in the Senate.

I now suggest a commission consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-General, Treasurer and Commissioner of Labor, to examine all bills and report to the Legislature their opinion of same, which would have the effect of weeding out many unnecessary and unconstitutional measures.

In conclusion I wish to indorse, with emphasis, the many suggestions that have been made to allow the Governor power to veto single items of a general appropriation bill. Strict economy will never be obtained until this is done.

I. S. SMITH.

CRUEL MISTREATMENT OF CHILD.

Trifling Offense Which Brought Harsh Usage to Little Girl Described.

PORTLAND, April 15.—(To the Editor.)—An incident which happened in front of my residence yesterday, and witnessed by a member of my family, has aroused my sympathy to such an extent that I cannot refrain from bringing it to the attention of the public.

A woman who lives in a flat on Hoyt street, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets, was passing my house with a little girl about 10 or 11 years of age. It was raining at the time and the woman was carrying an umbrella. The child reached up and apparently tried to pull the umbrella so that it would shelter her. This angered the woman who struck the child in the face and followed this with another blow in the mouth which was given with such force that it could be plainly heard in my library with the window closed.

As they passed up the street the woman continued striking the child over the head with the umbrella and jerking her head from side to side by her hair which was in two braids. The child was crying bitterly.

If I had seen this occurrence myself, I would certainly have sworn out a warrant for the arrest of the woman as I consider any person who would maltreat a child in that manner, should be severely punished. I write this in the hope that it will be read by the woman, whose name is not known to me, that she may be shamed into better behavior.

H. W. GODDARD.

REGISTER AND DO YOUR DUTY!

Otherwise Army of Undesirables Only Increases Its Ranks, Says E. F. Riley.

PORTLAND, April 16.—(To the Editor.)—Registration is the arming of oneself to fight in the battle of ballots in defense of the government against the attacks of the classes which include the I. W. W., the Socialists, the single taxers, and those who think the world owes them a living.

Many think they need not care, but after the time for registration has expired they may realize (and it is to be hoped they will) that their help in the fight is needed and that their refusal to aid is almost criminal; but unhappily it will then be too late to arm themselves.

Why would it not be better for them to prepare for the battle and so be in readiness to do their duty? It is easy to register, and a failure to do so surely indicates a lack of patriotism.

E. F. RILEY.

USE FAMILIAR HYMNS ON SUNDAY.

Then All May Lift Their Voices in Praise, Is Suggestion.

PORTLAND, April 15.—(To the Editor.)—I should like to make a suggestion with regard to "Go-to-Church Sunday" and it is this: That the hymns chosen for congregational singing be those with which the majority of persons have been familiar since childhood. I think it would be nice for all churches to unite in singing the almost "peer" of hymns, "Nearer My God to Thee" at the close of the service; thus will those beautiful words be rising in praise from all the people at the same time, and everyone will be able to join in the singing, since the words are familiar.

I should also suggest that more seats, camp chairs, stools, etc., be provided for the people than were in evidence on Easter Sunday.

ONE INTERESTED.

FLAWS SEEN IN BLUE SKY LAW.

Plaintiff in Action to Test "Undesirable Features" Outlines Position.

PORTLAND, April 16.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly favor me with space to reply to the statements of the Corporation Commissioner, published in the Journal. Being one of the plaintiffs in the action to test the undesirable features of the blue sky law, I feel that the remarks are too sweeping to go unnoticed. I ask space in The Oregonian to reply because it is denied me in the Journal.

In his attempt to defend the law, the Commissioner resorts to generalities without concrete facts or arguments pertaining to this law to substantiate his position.

Just a short time ago the Commissioner, feeling cock-sure of the validity and fairness of the law, was quoted as gladly welcoming a test of the constitutionality of the law and wanted it right away, but how about now? Is his present attitude consistent with then? Why the change of front in such a brief period? I venture the answer is the $3000 per year furnished by the state under the auspices of chapter 341, otherwise known as the blue sky act.

The Commissioner is mistaken about the existence of an organized press bureau to mould public opinion against this law. It is self-evident that his own ghost rises before him and is a straw man of his own creation. If any press bureau exists, there is plenty of public evidence to prove that he is the father of it and its headquarters are located in the office of the Commissioner at Salem, Oregon, where its real function has been to publish only such information concerning the law as will mislead the public as to its true character.

If the law is safe, fair, just, equitable for everybody alike, and constitutional as well, then it does not need anybody to leap into the breach in advance of the court's decision, defending its constitutionality and, moreover, not one whose public duty is to administer the law as he finds it. The State of Kansas found its law so radical and impractical that it forthwith amended the old original act after which our law is patterned. I wonder if the Commissioner will tell the public this fact.

If his statement that illegitimate concerns, "wildcatters" and dishonest promoters and dealers are at large in this state, without prosecution is accurate, why not furnish the public with a list of these crooks so that it can be protected if he is going to do nothing?

Out of several thousand corporations incorporated and doing business in this state, only about 1000 have passed the blue sky law under the Commissioner's administration. Can it be that the remaining several thousand are dishonest or illegitimate concerns?

The next Legislature should pass a sane blue sky law, one that will not be a one-man law or trespass upon vested constitutional rights of either corporation or individual and, in the meantime the courts will point out phases of our present act that are not valid and cannot be embodied in a new law.

W. E. DAVIDSON.

ON PLANS FOR THE AUDITORIUM.

Better No Building Than an Unsatisfactory One, Says Architect.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—Your editorial on "The Auditorium" in The Oregonian is a welcome, though tardy, recognition of the justice of the claim of those protesting architects who have persistently asserted that the award in the competition was unfair—who have been suspected of "unworthy motives" in making their objections to the award.

Undoubtedly there is legal ground for repudiating any obligations for payment for the useless Freedlander plans that contravened the conditions of the contract. The evidence for this was presented directly after the award and is now available. All moneys paid by the Commission for architectural services in this matter have been illegal. I make this statement advisedly, as one who was classed as a "competing architect," and who is therefore conversant with the detail of this matter.

A few years ago you illustrated my design for an auditorium and the Multnomah Club in combination, and commended it and printed the commendations of some of our leading citizens. It was a labor of love on my part, and had the design been carried into execution it would have made the city of Portland famous. Now that it is too late many realize that a great opportunity was then missed.

When at last it was determined that an auditorium should be built for Portland I endeavored again to be of service to the city and presented a design for an auditorium on the Market street site, but I intentionally ignored the regulations and instructions laid down in the programme for competing architects (thereby putting myself outside the pale of competition). I knew it was impossible to construct a suitable building on the ill-considered and arbitrary limitations of the site, and I wanted to show the people of Portland the way in which a building larger than 40,000 square feet could be placed on a city block that is only 200 feet square without closing the adjoining streets or the surrounding streets. This apparent anomaly was overcome in my design, and it is the only way in which a satisfactory building can be erected with all the accommodation that is required and with dignity and beauty in its surroundings. Better no auditorium than an unsatisfactory one.

THOMAS HAWKES.

PICTURE POSTCARD IS PASSING

The Fad About to Take Its Place With the Bicycle, It Is Considered.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The picture postcard vogue is dying out. Already the corner stores report a falling off in trade; already the postoffice figures indicate a decline in the actual number of postcards carried. A thing that has been at the same time a fad, a convenience, a popular common carrier and a common popular pest is now about to take its place with the bicycle as a thing that may be used with discretion but never again made a mania of.

Over the greater part of Europe it is now possible to send a sealed letter for the same price that a postcard may be dispatched. If we get 1-cent postage here, the only excuse for the illustrated card will be its illustration and the accompanying fact that fewer words are required as a personal message.

It is interesting to note, now that the postcard is ceasing to be a fad, that it was not, as has been supposed, an American invention. It was first used in Austria, where as early as 1869 a Doctor Herrmann suggested its employment. Its price was something less than 1 cent, then but those who used it were allowed to write only 20 words on it. Not that the writing of 21 words would have appreciably increased the burden of the mail carriers; 20 words was the limit perhaps that the people might duly appreciate the fact that a government owned the postoffice.

An Office Like a Mendicant.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"The office ought to seek the man," said the patriot.

"Perhaps," replied Senator Sorghum; "but when an office has to seek the man, the salary is generaly so small that it makes the office look like a downright mendicant."

Pause in College Routine.

Baltimore American.

Jones—How is your boy getting on at college?

Smith—All right.

Jones—What's he studying?

Smith—Geography. I guess. He wrote for money today. He said he wanted to learn the town.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of April 17, 1889.

Astoria, April 16.—The British ships Fiery Cross and Hornby Castle sailed for Queenstown this afternoon. Captain Gray, of the former, and Captain Smith, of the latter, each made a wager of $500 that his vessel would reach the destination first.

Baker City, April 16.—Washauer Bros. have just completed the purchase of 100 feet square of N. D. Wisdom and D. L. Moomaw and plans are being made for the erection of a four-story hotel.

Albany, Or., April 16.—Dr. G. W. Maston, of this city, has been appointed resident surgeon for the Southern Pacific Company.

Washington, April 16.—Senator Dolph and Representative Hermann have presented to the Land Commissioner a petition from residents of Lake County, Or., asking to have the litigation against George Hemersly and John M. Russell for cutting timber on Government land dismissed.

Washington, April 16.—General Franz Sigel has resigned as pension agent at New York.

Benjamin Stark, of New London, Conn., for whom Stark street was named, arrived here yesterday.

John Maguire, formerly manager of the New Market Theater, but now in charge of the Montana theatrical circuit, arrived yesterday.

As Mr. Smally, a night operator in the Western Union office, was on his way home yesterday morning, he discovered a fire in Smith's grocery on Holladay avenue, East Portland. The blaze was quickly extinguished.

William Kerns says a party of his friends came over the Barlow road last week and found it in good condition.

Joe Ben Lane has sold his 40-acre tract at North Beach to Donald Macleay, Dr. Barber, George B. Markle, D. F. Sherman, Herbert Bradley and others for $10,000. The purchasers intend to erect cottages for their own use.

Last night Rev. Mr. Snodgrass, the new pastor of the East Portland Baptist Church, and his family were given a cordial welcome by the members. W. B. Hall called the meeting to order, Rev. George Hill offered prayer, the East Portland Glee Club sang, Dr. Gordon made an address of welcome, Rev. Mr. Bateman, of Mount Tabor, and Rev. Mr. Le Roy, of Astoria, made addresses and Miss Grace Davey sang.

A concert was given at Masonic Hall last evening by the Mendelssohn Quintet Club.

In the absence of the president, Mrs. R. W. Emmons, Mrs. O. F. Paxton presided at the annual meeting of the Portland Free Kindergarten Association last night.

The Diplomatic Servant.

The Sketch.

The caller—I want to see your master about a bill.

The diplomatic servant—He left for the country last night.

The caller—I want to pay him.

The diplomatic servant (hastily)—But he returned this morning.

Episode of Home, Sweet Home.

Judge.

"Are you and papa doin' to stay at home dis evening?" asked the child of its mother.

"Yes, dear," her mother replied.

The little one looked thoughtful for a moment and then lisped:

"What ith the matter?"

In The Sunday Oregonian:

UNLOCKING ALASKA

A detailed study of America's greatest storehouse and how the Government railway system will unlock it occupies a full page, illustrated with new photographs of important and picturesque points.

Oregon at the Fair

A full page, in colors, on the superb showing Oregon will make next year at the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Queen Eleonore,

the Bulgarian sovereign, who will be in our midst shortly, is the fairy queen of the wounded soldiers. The story of her life is a romantic one.

The Tiger Decides

A thrilling short story of love and adventure by Frank Conly. Complete Sunday.

The Churches

What do they need to strengthen their appeal? The question is discussed by a number of eminent thinkers.

Moods of Genevieve

In a series of 12 sketches the inner feminine soul is laid quite bare. It is a story of moods, and the first sketch deals with Genevieve's vanity mood.

Exit the Age Limit

Women, at least modern women, are no longer passe at 30, says Rita Reese.

Breezy Suzanne

Ellis Parker Butler's delightfully new character tackles international relations and war in the second article of this refreshing series.

Photographing Music

Impossible? Not at all. It has been done and the results will prove far-reaching in the world of music.

Digging the Canal

Another article by Theodore Roosevelt on the Panama Canal.

With the Confederates

Portland veteran of the Confederate army recounts the fight at Chickamauga.

Character Pen Pointers

Another page of handwriting analyses by Edith Macomber Hall.

Crazy Mountain School

The story of what an isolated little country school did. A whole page of illustrated matter for the little ones.

A great variety of other features.

Order early of your newsdealer.