The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1914.

WHY RESTRICT COMPETITION?

What is unfair competition? That is one of the questions suggested by the Administration bills declaring unfair competition unlawful. Senator Borah has said in one of the ablest speeches he has made in the Senate that the proposed prohibition, though aimed against monopoly, would prove a buffer against prosecution and dissolution of monopoly.

The Sherman law has been interpreted by the courts as declaring the competitive system the only lawful business method in this country, but on the plea that unfair competition is a favorite device of monopoly, it is proposed to limit competition. But Mr. Borah showed that, so far as unfair competition has been thus used, it has been pronounced unlawful by the Supreme Court; that is, certain specific forms of unfair competition have been so proscribed. Then why introduce into the law so indefinite a general term? The Senator said that after twenty years of litigation the meaning of the Sherman law has been so well defined by the courts that the doubt of which business men complained has been pretty well removed. To supplant that law with a prohibition in terms so indefinite that it would apply to numerous other practices besides those already condemned by the courts would be to open a new era of doubt and uncertainty, and perhaps another twenty years of litigation to remove that doubt.

President Wilson is said to have approved the incorporation in the Newlands trade commission bill of a provision declaring unfair competition unlawful and authorizing the proposed commission to prevent its use. This provision is said by the American Fair Trade League to be an admission of the evils at which the Stevens bill to prevent discrimination in prices is aimed. A letter from the league says the latter bill "aims to take away from the big retailing monopolies the chief weapon of cutthroat competition by which the great producing trusts have established themselves," but we are not aiming merely to take away the weapons of monopoly; we aim to destroy monopoly itself. Every restriction of competition tends to strengthen and build up monopoly, for, as Mr. Borah said: "The beginning of monopoly is the cessation of competition." He would enlist against monoply any power, "and just in proportion as there is what might be called a buffer against the action of that power, in that proportion benefit will somewhere arise to the interest of the monopoly."

Having destroyed monopoly by the unswerving enforcement of the Sherman law, which the Idaho Senator recommends and which we have never had, we should have removed those combinations which are most prone and most able to use unfair competitive methods. Any corporation which thereafter resorted to competitive methods which have already been condemned by the courts would promptly be called to account, and any corporation which tried other unfair methods would lay itself open to suspicion of striving for monopoly. The Trade Commission would then start on its trail.

Destruction of monopoly is possible by the rigid enforcement of the Sherman law and of the proposed laws regulating security issues and inhibiting interlocking directorates and holding companies. Its purpose should be restoration of competition among business units of such size as modern conditions render economically efficient. The proposed Trade Commission should be a valuable instrument in law enforcement through its power of inquiry, of compelling reports, of initiating prosecutions, of taking evidence for the Attorney-General and of winding up concerns which the courts order dissolved. As Mr. Borah pointed out, the right of injured individuals to sue for treble damages may become the "most effective and powerful instrument for the dissolution of monopolies" and it will be more freely exercised when the law has made available for individuals the evidence and decrees in Government prosecutions.

BLUE SKY LAW IN DOUBT.

The initiated bill to consolidate the corporation and insurance departments of the state is one of the few in the twenty-nine measures submitted which aims at economy. As heretofore observed the disposition of the lawgivers has been to fly off on the tangent of evasion and substitution. Instead of attempting to cut down taxes with an ax or pruning knife they seek to disturb and redistribute the apportionment of the high cost of government. But it is possible that the courts may remove the chief argument for the enactment of this law by holding that Oregon does not possess a legally constituted corporation department.

Oregon's corporation department is created by the so-called blue-sky law. Its constitutionality is attacked in the Federal Court in this district, and with the filing of the decision in the Iowa case, Monday, the Federal Courts have proclaimed the unconstitutionality of blue sky laws in two other states.

Blue sky laws vary in form in the eighteen states that have adopted them and in some particulars the decisions in Michigan and Iowa would not be applicable to the law of Oregon. But in Iowa it has been held that the principle on which such laws are founded is antagonistic to the commerce clause of the constitution. In the Michigan case the United States District Court went further. It held in brief as follows:

That the act could not be sustained as a tax law or a mere license law, since it does not purport to be the former, and, while it carries some features of the latter, its dominant characteristics are prohibitory; that it violated constitutional rights in that corporate, partnership, and individual securities and obligations to pay money are property, and the right to issue and sell, or buy and sell, the same is liberty within the due process clause of the Federal Constitution; that the act as a whole constitutes a direct interference with interstate commerce in stocks, bonds and commercial paper, which constitutes a part of interstate trade, and is therefore invalid.

If these opinions are finally sustained by the United States Supreme Court it would seem that all effective blue-sky laws must fall.

FRUITS OF THE SPOILS SYSTEM.

The escapade of George Fred Williams as Minister to Greece, Montenegro and Albania is a natural consequence of Secretary Bryan's practice of selecting men for diplomatic posts as rewards for political service, without regard to their ability to perform their duties. Mr. Williams is a political orator, who placed Mr. Bryan under obligations by his political aid extending back to 1896. As the New York Tribune says, he had "exhibited all the defects most fatal to success in diplomacy—emotionalism, eccentricity, sensationalism and violent partisanship." But Mr. Bryan had to pay a political debt, therefore sent him to Athens on the same terms as he tried to send Pindell to St. Petersburg—that he must serve not more than a year.

By publishing a criticism of the great powers' policy in the Balkans, Mr. Williams showed that he lacked the qualities most needed in a diplomat sent to that region and that he possessed the qualities most hurtful to his country's interests. A diplomat in any of those countries must move discreetly, but Mr. Williams has deported himself like a bull in a china shop. Were Europe disposed to take him seriously, his exploit might have got us into serious trouble. Fortunately for us Europe regards Mr. Williams as a joke.

The Williams fiasco demonstrates once more the danger to National interests caused by turning over the diplomatic service to the spoilsmen. That service is in a sense a part of our National defenses, as are the Army and Navy, for it must guard our interests abroad and must cope with trained men in so doing. It should, therefore, be lifted as high above politics as are the Army and Navy. Admission should be on merit, promotion should be within the ranks on the same basis and only trained men of proved ability should attain the highest posts. This principle was followed by the Roosevelt and Taft Administrations, but was set aside by Mr. Bryan. Hence arose the exploits of Ambassador Page in London, of Minister Sullivan in Santo Domingo, of the Bohemian-American in Roumania and now of Mr. Williams in Albania.

TO MAKE THE POOR MAN SQUIRM.

A correspondent who writes to The Oregonian today has a pretty clear understanding of the effects of the $1500 exemption, but not so accurate a conception of The Oregonian's opinion of the fairness and morality of the voters. It is not believed by The Oregonian that the $1500 exemption measure will pass if its inspiration, intent and effect be thoroughly understood. But it is fully as insidious as the poll tax fraud by means of which the single-taxers imposed county tax option on the state in 1910. The chief danger is in its apparent simplicity.

If the voters generally can be made to realize that such an exemption would deprive state, county and city of a great amount of needed revenue unless the tax rate were raised or tax values increased there will be no doubt about the result. Creation of such an exemption will merely mean that the balance of taxable property must pay more in order to make up a prospective deficiency in public revenues. Nearly every taxpayer who would get an exemption under the proposed law would still have property remaining that would be taxable. Instead of paying 27 mills, as he does this year on all his property, he would pay a higher rate on part of it.

There would not be grave evil in that if the change would have the same effect on every property-owner. But it would not. Some would get no exemption at all because they own only land. Some would get $100, some $200, some $300 and so on up to $1500, depending in each case on the value of the taxpayer's personal property and improvements. In many instances the higher tax rate that would be imposed would more than offset the amount saved by exemption and in such cases the property-owner would pay more with the law in force than he does now.

The effect of the measure, briefly stated, would be that only a middle class of fairly prosperous people would profit by the exemption. The taxes of the beginner, of the owner of a vacant lot which he is perhaps buying for a home-site on the installment plan, and of the very small home-owner, would be increased.

The larger property-owner, too, would take on an additional tax burden, but in most instances he is able to pass it along, as the correspondent says, in higher rents and higher prices of foodstuffs. The measure is not only morally vicious and economically unsound, but proposes a cruel imposition on the poor. Education and understanding only are needed to encompass its defeat.

FRESH-AIR VACATIONS.

Unaccustomed brightness and boundless joy are brought into the dull lives of scores of little boys and girls through the organized plan to send them into the country for a vacation. The first happy group has just gone for a delightful frolic in rural haunts and others are to follow as rapidly as arrangements can be completed and the necessary funds provided. These are little boys and girls who would get no vacation except for the thoughtfulness and unselfishness of those kindly persons in Portland who are ever on the alert to brighten the lot of those upon whom fortune has not been smiling. Nor is there any finer kindness than this of sending these hundreds of boys and girls, and their mothers, away for an invigorating jaunt where care is not and only the joys of living abound.

The annual fresh-air trip of these children is a bright spot in their lives; one they will not forget whether fortune smiles or frowns upon them in future years. It stimulates them physically, mentally and morally; gives a fresh sweetness to the cup of life. Doubtless much of the joy they feel in their adventures amid inspiring rural mysteries is reflected to those who help make possible the experience. Are you one of those who has added his mite to the fresh-air fund?

AFFINITIES VERSUS WIVES.

A sympathetic world will acclaim the courage and enterprise of the San Francisco wives who have organized "The Home Sacred" Society. Their purpose is twofold. First and foremost, they wish to prevent divorces. Secondly, if a divorce is unavoidable, they intend to see that the wife receives proper alimony. A judicious plan of campaign has been mapped out to accomplish both these desirable objects.

It appears that the worst foe of the home in San Francisco is the "affinity," as she is politely called. This creature is a female more perilously seductive than the staid and docile housewife. She sails on sunny seas of enjoyment at theaters, on the boulevards, in gilded halls of frivolous mirth and she is enormously expensive. Far too large a proportion of the earnings of San Francisco's husbands go to finance the giddy delights of the baneful affinity. Many a lawful wife sits night after night surrounded by her starving children in a fireless kitchen vainly waiting for the return of her lord and master with the wherewithal to buy a dried herring and a cup of tea.

And meanwhile where is he? Ask the flirting skirts of the diamond-bedecked affinity. Small wonder that the wan and wasted wives of San Francisco have made up their minds that this sort of thing shall end. They may not be so beautiful as the painted affinity. Their smiles may lack some of her infernal gaiety, but the law is on their side and they purpose to get the full benefit of it. If they cannot make their husbands love them they can at least extract consolatory alimony from the perverse wretches.

In olden times the maxim ran, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." The new version in San Francisco is, "The soul that sinneth he shall pay," which is upon the whole a great deal more satisfactory to her that is sinned against. Of what financial use is a dead man? As long as a wife can maintain a firm grasp on her husband's money she can dispense fairly well with his love. Let the flagitious affinity have the love if she will and make the most of it. The tangible and substantial benefits of matrimony will still be in the wife's possession.

FLYING TO EUROPE.

The latest project of crossing the Atlantic Ocean in an airship was inspired by the London Daily News. That paper offered a prize of $50,000 for a flight from this country to Europe, fixing the time limit at seventy-two hours. Rodman Wanamaker, of New York, has undertaken to win the prize, though he will not himself make the flight. That part of the adventure has been committed to Lieutenant J. C. Porte, a British naval officer. He will be accompanied by one assistant whose name is George Hallett. If the pioneer enterprise is accomplished as the projectors hope, both these names will become household words within the next few months.

The aeroplane for the great experiment has been built and has made several trial flights. The airship is so constructed that it can either fly or sail. In case of accident aloft it can settle down upon the bosom of the ocean and rest securely there until repairs have been completed. Then it will rise again among the clouds and peacefully pursue its adventurous career.

Of course if a storm were raging and the billows running mountain-high, as they occasionally do, it might not be much more comfortable for the airmen on the water than in the clouds were their machinery to get out of order, but this is one of the risks which they have taken into account. They do not expect their trip to be quite as easy as sitting on the shady porch reading a novel of a Summer afternoon. What with winds above and waves below their stories may very probably be cut short long before they reach Europe. This chance they know as well as anybody, but it does not frighten them.

Lieutenant Porte is a robust man who has seen many perils by land and sea without losing his appetite for new adventures. His assistant is of a daredevil spirit and he will need all his boldness, for it will be his pleasing task to climb over and round about the aeroplane while it is in full flight and look for nascent troubles in the machinery. Between two heroes of this quality the flight stands a fair chance of being achieved. If it is not done this time it will be soon, for air navigation across the Atlantic is one of the certainties of the near future.

The construction of their airship is as perfect as modern science and educated ingenuity can make it. The wings spread over an area of 798 square feet, twice as much as the ordinary airship requires. The body is constructed of white cedar sheathed with Japanese silk, which is again protected with varnish. It weighs 500 pounds and is expected to sustain a weight of 4500 pounds. This looks like a sad disproportion, but it is as nothing compared with the relative weight that a housefly sustains by the motion of its wings.

It was proposed at first to fit out the airship with a single 200-horsepower engine, but this plan was abandoned in the end. It was too dangerous. Obviously an accident to the single engine might have wrecked the ship and destroyed the airmen. The final arrangement is to have two engines, each of 100 horsepower, so that even if one should be put out of action the other may still be depended upon. No precautions have been spared which appear to make for success in the flight and the public is inclined to put some faith in the outcome. The man on the street goes so far as to admit that Lieutenant Porte may reach his destination safe and sound if all goes well.

The chances are heavy that all will not go well and yet, "nothing ventured, nothing won." Our best wishes go out to the bold navigators who are seeking to make a new mark on the sands of time. This age has been prolific in great deeds and we are willing to see another added to the long list, whatever its consequences may be. The world is asking a little anxiously whether air navigation across the Atlantic will make for war or peace. No doubt it will act in both directions. It will certainly tend to put old navies out of commission and cause the nations to build new ones if they can raise the money. Whether they can or not is growing a little precarious in some cases. On the other hand, it will make commercial intercourse more intimate, and, as we all understand, trade is the arch peacemaker that will finally swallow up the fleets and armies of the world.

With a flood of salacious matter coming to light in divorce suits and white-slave trials, some persons are persuaded that such court proceedings ought to be secret from the miscellaneous public. Perhaps they ought. If secrecy could end with these matters all might be well. But it is characteristic of legal precedents to enlarge their scope without limit. Once interpret a "public trial" to mean a secret trial in white-slave cases and we should be in a fair way to star chamber proceedings upon every important issue.

What must be the emotions of a man who is pardoned out of prison after thirty-four years of unjust confinement? The man whom President Wilson has just released is an Indian and presumably a stoic, but the thought that he has suffered so long in spite of his innocence must rankle in his breast. Some of us grumble to see the law so anxiously careful of the rights of the accused, and yet innocent men are sometimes convicted and punished. If such a lot should fall to one of the grumblers he might change his tune.

Papilionaceae is the botanical name of the family to which the sweet pea belongs. It comes from papilio, the name the Alban shepherds gave the butterfly. The family includes many beautiful and numberless useful plants, such as peas, beans and vetches. Their blossoms have butterflies' wings and a good deal of the ephemeral fairies' fragile charm. Sweet peas grow more lovely every season. The show is a vision of rainbow witchery. Whoever loves the allurement of form and color will go to see it.

Great Britain is spending a mint of money to dot her shores with towers armed against aerial foes. A new kind of gun will be installed which is supposed to be wonderfully effective against aeroplanes. This is interesting but ineffectual. The significant military discovery of the day is the power of wireless waves to explode powder magazines at a distance of a dozen miles or more. This one circumstance will transform war and perhaps abolish it.

No sight is more pleasing to travelers in Oregon and Washington than that of the walnut trees which have been planted on numerous farms. They almost uniformly thrive and hundreds of instances prove that they will bear profitable crops. The California walnut crop will amount to 10,000 tons this season. Oregon will do as well in course of time.

While tradition and time-honored custom have made it seem proper to hang a horsethief, a dignified respect for the law restrains such action in the case of the man who steals an automobile. There is an impalpable touch of humor in the latter act.

One of the highest compliments paid Portland was the act of a Federal employe who resigned rather than live elsewhere. As an all-seasons resort, Portland has the rest of the country shaded on the weather map.

A public utility can give its patrons whatever service they desire and people who want to get on a ten-party telephone line can be accommodated, no doubt. The plan works well in rural districts, but is too slow for the city.

Huerta is reported to be shipping large sums of money out of the country. So he won't have to go into vaudeville when the bottom falls out of Mexico and it is no longer fit for even a Greaser to live in.

Mutinous Mexican Federals who threatened to attack the American outposts would mutiny again if their mutineer officers should order them to make the attack.

Ex-Consul Silliman has gone to plead with the rebels to spare Huerta's life. But Huerta has shown some capacity in the line of taking care of himself.

No, Myrtle, the men who are holding up the highway work could hardly be termed highwaymen, even admitting that they ought to be called something.

The Minister to Greece says he is the victim of his firm principles. From the standpoint of diplomacy he is the victim of his own asininity.

It is now up to San Francisco affinities to organize for mutual protection from wives who object to having their husbands abstracted.

Insanity is shown to be on the increase in Portland. Here's a chance for the foes of commission government to assign a reason.

Now if the Standard Oil were to intervene between Villa and Carranza the matter might be straightened out very shortly.

After eating a firecracker an Iowa boy died very shortly. Eating them is almost as dangerous as firing them.

A Pennsylvania bank has declared a dividend of 700 per cent. However, merely to dodge the new currency law.

Since the day of Heenan and Sayers, it is hard for an American fighter to get a decision in England.

Lipton's yachting expenses will exceed $1,000,000. We hope it doesn't affect the price of tea.

Unrest is growing in the Central West over the Wilson Administration. Too much is plenty.

A campaign has been commenced in New York to suppress the I. W. W. High time.

The rebels are said to be getting together. If they do, it will not be for long.

Keep it up, Mr. McCredie; the fans are with you.

Help send the poor kids to the country.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of July 8, 1864.

The first stage from Walla Walla for Salt Lake started on the 1st inst. with the expectation of making the trip through in ten days, and through to Atchison in 20 days. The passage from Walla Walla to Atchison is expected to be about $150.

Chicago, July 2.—A Nashville letter of the 30th, speaking of Sherman's operations, says: On the 27th Hooker and Schofield attempted to storm the rebel breastworks, but were unsuccessful. Hooker was dangerously wounded and his corps, 1000 men, repulsed in the assault. The rebels had built breastworks of trees before their works, rendering them almost unapproachable.

Washington, July 3. — A telegram from Sherman says that the recent movements have caused the enemy to evacuate and we now occupy Kensaw and Marietta. A telegram from Grant's headquarters reports the return of General Wilson, he having destroyed 60 miles of railroad. Dispatches from Charleston, W. Va., state that Hunter with his whole command had arrived safely. He defeated the enemy in five engagements, destroying $5,000,000 worth of property, including all the factories, mills, tanyards, foundries and furnaces in Shennandoah Valley, as far as Lynchburg. All the railroads and canals on the route were totally destroyed.

New York, July 3.—A dispatch from headquarters records the return of General Kautz with the loss of many men, horses, 12 guns and his wagon train, but the expedition was successful in the destruction of the Danville & Weldon Railroad, mills and an immense amount of other property. On returning they were overwhelmingly attacked by Fitzhugh Lee and Hampton's cavalry and infantry. Kautz repulsed them several times, but was finally surrounded. His retreat was made through almost impenetrable swamps. His guns were spiked and wagons burned. It is reported the Sixth corps afterwards attacked the rebels and recaptured eight guns.

Baltimore, July 3. — Three heavy columns of the rebels attacked Martinsburg this morning. Sigel fought them several hours, but, yielding to superior numbers, evacuated Martinsburg, saving all the movable property. He has fallen back to Harper's Ferry and holds a strong position on Maryland Heights.

New York, July 5.—The following is by the City of Baltimore: The pirate Alabama left Cherbourg on the 19th to engage the Kearsarge and attacked her 10 miles from shore. The engagement lasted one hour and 40 minutes. The fight resulted in the sinking of the Alabama. Captain Semmes and part of his crew were saved by the English yacht Deerhound. Before leaving Cherbourg Captain Semmes left 60 chronometers, and all his specie and ransom bonds. No one killed and but three wounded on the Kearsarge. Semmes is reported to be slightly wounded. Later—It is reported that the Kearsarge captured 68 of the officers and crew of the Alabama. Semmes publishes a statement that he had nine killed and wounded and charges that the Kearsarge continued to fire after the Alabama had struck her colors.

Married—In Victoria, V. I., on June 30, by the Rev. E. Cridge, Henry A. Pickett, merchant, of Victoria, to Miss Helena Spears, formerly of Portland, Or.; in this city, at the residence of W. H. Bennett, Esq., on the 7th inst., by Rev. D. Rutledge, Mr. John Eastabrooks, of Umatilla City, and Miss Adna A. Bennett, of this city.

The weekly meeting of the Council was held last evening. The Portland Water Company sent a communication stating that since April 1, 1862, water for the fire cisterns and engine houses had been furnished free, but in view of the increasing demands for water, a conference with the Council should be held to arrange for compensation.

Yesterday morning Yee Goong, accompanied by one of our prominent citizens, requested that his advertisement be placed in our columns and The Daily Oregonian left at his tea store on Alder street.

The mountain stream at the southwest extremity of the city having failed to supply the demands for water in the upper ward, the water company has renewed pumping from the Willamette.

A fine threshing machine was taken from this city for Marion County yesterday by Samuel Brown, of Belpassi.

Summer House at Clatsop Beach—This delightful watering place is situated near Tillamook Head, about 15 miles south from the mouth of the Columbia River, and is easy of access, pasengers being conveyed from Astoria in safe and comfortable plungers to Skipanon, where there are two good hotels and where they will find good carriages to convey them over a beautiful country for $1 each way.

Executive Ability Defined.

Cincinnati Enquirer.

Willie—Paw, what is executive ability?

Paw—That is something possessed by a man who has a position that enables him to find fault with the work done by the rest of the help, my son.

Qualified for Service.

Exchange.

Honest, now, are you eminently qualified for any one service?

The Vacation Goat.

By Dean Collins.

I sing of vacation; I sing with elation,
With joyousness, jollity, jubilant vigor;
The season when women folk hike to the station
And duck for the beach from the hot Summer's rigor.
I sing of that fellow with heart soft and mellow
Who loves his whole family with spirit so nice,
That, though the hot sun melts him down into jello,
He sticks in his office and puts up the price.

'Tis great stuff for mother and sister and brother
To strike for the beach as the mercury climbs,
But my heart is full of respect for another—
Poor dad who must stake them to all these good times.
Where bright waves are gleaming and seaweed is streaming
They kill time with any vacation device,
While dad in the midsummer office is steaming
And digging away, to kick through with the price.

Gay lives dads are leading, with restaurant feeding
And lonesome, long evenings back here in the town,
While all of the family at seashores are breeding
A costly complexion of sun-painted brown.
I sing of vacation, I sing with elation,
And use all my fancy the Muse to entice
To put in one boost for the Cream of Creation—
The dads back at home who come through with the price.

WHY ROOSEVELT LEAVES OUTLOOK

Demand of Politics Leaves Him No Time for Editorial Work.

The Outlook.

The following letters not only announce the retirement of Mr. Roosevelt from his editorial connection with the Outlook, but outline his plan of political activity in the coming campaign:

"Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, June 29, 1914.—Mr. Dear Dr. Abbott: I hope I need not tell you how very deeply I have appreciated my connection with the Outlook during the last five years. You may perhaps recall what I wrote at the outset of this connection in giving my opinion of the Outlook and the reasons why I was glad to be connected with it. My experience during these five years has justified every word I then wrote. It has been a help—indeed I may say that it has been an inspiration—to be associated with you and my other colleagues in the work of the Outlook. If I had been able to be, as I expected to be, a man entirely removed from all participation in active politics, nothing would give me keener pleasure than to keep on in the future exactly as in the past.

"But the developments of the last three or four years have rendered it imperative that I should take a more or less active part in trying to secure in the Nation and in the several states the triumph of those principles embodied in the Progressive platform of 1912. Whatever I can do, for instance, to aid in the elimination of men like Mr. Penrose, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Barnes from control of our political life, I must do. In addition, I now feel that I am in honor bound to stand in strong opposition to the Administration. I feel that as regards our international relations the policy of the present Administration has meant the abandonment of the interest and honor of America. Furthermore, I feel that within our own boundaries the course pursued by the Administration has meant the abandonment of every sane effort to secure the abatement of social and industrial evils. Its legislative and executive programme has brought about grave industrial depression and suffering to business man, farmer and wage-worker alike, although perhaps most of all to the wage-worker.

"Having to do this political work, it has become impossible for me to give the time necessary to carry out my duties as a member of the editorial staff of the Outlook. Accordingly, with the deepest regret I hereby resign from that position. I am most sincerely sorry to sunder my editorial connection with the Outlook. My personal connection with you and your colleagues will always remain one of close and intimate friendship. If you care to have me do so, I shall be glad to continue as a special contributor to the Outlook, giving you during the coming year a series of articles on social and industrial subjects of current interest.

"Faithfully yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"Dr. Lyman Abbott, Editor the Outlook, 287 Fourth avenue, New York City."

"The Outlook Company, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York, June 30, 1914.—My Dear Mr. Roosevelt: With undiminished affection for you, with undiminished loyalty to the principles for which you stand, I recognize with you the necessity for your action.

"The Progressive party is the organic representative in America of a great human movement. Throughout the world the people are demanding a more direct and controlling share in government and a better measure of social justice. With that demand the Outlook was in sympathy long before the Progressive party was organized, and because of our sympathy you accepted our invitation when you retired from the Presidency. Your endeavor to bring the Republican party into line with this movement succeeded despite the apparently successful opposition of those who control its political machinery. The election of 1912 proved that the rank and file of that party understood and believed in you. Of the Progressive party into which they followed you, you are, whether you will or no, the inevitable leader.

"But history has abundantly demonstrated the truth that no man can be both the leader of a great political party and an editor of an independent journal. The demands of the political campaign and of the editorial office are inconsistent. Our intimate fellowship has increased the affection and esteem of all your associates for you; the events of the past five years have increased our faith in the righteousness and ultimate success of the principles of which you are America's greatest interpreter. I am especially glad, as are all my associates, to be assured by you that you will continue, as special contributor, to use the columns of the Outlook as your chief means of interpreting these principles through the printed page. Sincerely yours,

"LYMAN ABBOTT.

"Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, New York."

As indicated in the foregoing letters, Mr. Roosevelt will contribute to the Outlook during the coming year a series of exclusive special articles, the first of which is entitled, "The People and Judge-Made Laws." This will be followed from time to time by other articles from his pen on important questions of domestic and international interest.

CIGAR IN STYLE NOW 100 YEARS

Brought to France and Smoked by Spanish Officers.

Paris Cor. London Truth.

It is just 100 years ago since the cigar was brought into France and smoked by Spanish officers who had attached themselves to the fortunes of Joseph Bonaparte. One of them was fated to lose nearly half his face and an eye in the defense of Paris against the allied armies—namely, the Comte de Montijo, father of the Empress Eugenia. The Winter had been severe, the suffering great from want of sugar, coffee and other small luxuries to which Parisians had been accustomed. Women plied the razors on men's faces in the barber shops. They unloaded barges in the Seine and drove wagons to the markets.

The soothing effects of the Count Montijo's and his friends' cigars were observed in high places, and the government instructed the tobacco state monopoly to manufacture them ad libitum after a model purchased in Spain. The police saw to the distribution of the new comforter, and cigar smoking became a feature in Paris life before the disaster of Leipzig. The aide-de-camp salon at the Tuileries reeked with cigar smoke. There was then no prejudice against the cigar. There was against the pipe, which the fine gentlemen—all snuff-takers—left to the common people.

How to Treat Your Town.

Atchison Globe.

Praise it.
Improve it.
Talk about it.
Trade at home.
Be public-spirited.
Take a home pride in it.
Tell of its business men.
Remember it is your home.
Tell of its natural advantages.
Trade and induce others to trade here.
When strangers come to town use them well.
Don't call your best citizens frauds and impostors.
Support your local institutions that benefit your town.
Look ahead of self when all the town is to be considered.
Help the public officers do the most good for the most people.
Don't advertise in the local paper "to help the editor," but advertise to help yourself.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of July 8, 1889.

Bakersfield, Cal., July 7.—Fire today destroyed every business house in town, with about 40 dwellings. Loss about $1,250,000; insurance about $300,000.

The baseball club of the Farmers' & Mechanics store sustained its first defeat yesterday at the grounds near the old waterworks in South Portland. The opposing team was a picked nine from several mercantile firms. The score stood 20 to 17. Abrams and Meyer were the battery of the picked nine, Langford and Wilson for the Farmers' & Mechanics.

B. S. Pague, United States signal officer at Portland, has laid The Oregonian under obligations for a copy of the annual Meteorological Review of the State of California for 1888.

The Gardner Opera Company gave their farewell performance at the New Park Theater last night in "Karl, the Peddler."

Multnomah Typographical Union yesterday elected the following officers: Captain John O'Brien, president; George W. Ficks, vice-president; W. F. Osburn, secretary-treasurer; E. R. Botsford, recording and corresponding secretary; J. H. Brown, sergeant-at-arms; executive committee, Robert Glen, Jr., Albert Tozier, Henry Denlinger, J. F. Seaman and A. L. Talmadge; delegates to the Federated Trades, Miss Ada E. Coburn, Captain John O'Brien, Albert Tozier and George H. Hawkins.

The remains of Professor Joshua E. Clayton arrived yesterday from Wardner Junction, accompanied by Mrs. J. E. Clayton, Dr. Lily V. Hampton and John McConnell.

Dr. Landon returned on Saturday from his vacation and preached in Calvary Church yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Mitchell returned yesterday from Spokane.

James A. Pinney has been nominated for Mayor of Boise City.

A new Democratic weekly newspaper is to be established at Salem styled the Capital Democrat.

Southern Oregon peaches have made their appearance in the Portland markets.

John Curtin, the newly-appointed chief of police of Albina, is a good selection.

A vast amount of improvement in and around the Exposition building is to be inaugurated this morning.

The residence of Edward Hirsch, of Salem, was half destroyed by fire Friday night.

$1500 EXEMPTION BILL IS VICIOUS

It Would Raise Taxes of Poor and Increase Their Living Cost.

CORBETT, Or., July 7.—(To the Editor.) — I agree with you "that the $1500 exemption is the most menacing and mischievous measure on the ballot," but do not think, as you seem to, that it will be adopted; as it is nothing else than another single tax measure in disguise (which principle was repudiated at the last election) intended to fool the voter and make him vote for single tax unawares by keeping his eyes on something else than on the fundamental principle hidden in that measure. As there is no tax on land exempted in it, but only limited exemption on improvements, what every voter would imagine to gain by voting for this measure, he surely would lose again, if not a good deal more, in the shape of raised land tax, on which part of these improvements are exempted, and, in consequence thereof, in a general raise of land rent, house rent, price of foodstuffs, etc. What could a sensible voter, especially the poorer class, imagine to gain by voting for such menacing and mischievous measures?

Would this measure, if adopted, not strike the hardest blow to all beginners—particularly the poorer class of people—who intend to build up a home by and by, and improve their land with their slow earnings, and who have to pay for land and improvements slowly with the sweat of their blood?

You just preach and explain these undeniable truths to each sensible voter and expose the fraud in this and all exemption measures and you will see how quick the voters again will repudiate this greatly deceiving, dishonest and unjust single tax measure.

Every just and honest man and voter is always ready and willing to pay his due share for what he orders and gets in a general way as well as by the means of his ballot, even if the latter should be only such trifling things like good government, good protection for life, rights and property, good courts and schools, good education for his children, good officers, communication, markets, rivers, harbors, streets, roads, etc., and this undeniable fact proves beyond the least doubt "that only the most dishonest and unjust among us voters would want to exempt themselves from taxes and shift the payment of it on others." Do you really believe that the majority of us is so dishonest, unjust, mean, low and rotten as that?

It is a natural law "That always the greatest dishonesty and injustice leads in all dishonest and unjust schemes." Never the smallest! And don't you forget that! It is another law of nature "that every special life can exist, prosper and do well only between certain extremes," and for this very reason we are forced to fight dishonesty and injustice and keep them down within that they may not get too big, like this exemption scheme. The ballot is a weapon just like a gun, and it can be used, too, for exactly the same purpose. It can be used in a right, just, honest or lawful way for the protection of life, rights, property and the welfare of all, and it can be used in a wrong, unjust, dishonest or criminal way, for exempting certain people from the payment for things which they have ordered and acquired by the force of the same weapon.

"If it is wrong, unjust, dishonest, unlawful, criminal, and against the true welfare of all when thieves and robbers use their guns for the purpose of robbing others of a part of their property, then it surely is and must be wrong, unjust, dishonest, criminal, unlawful and against the true welfare of all when exactly the very same thing is done by the misuse of the ballot."

There is no getting around that!

If the majority exempt themselves from taxation and are permitted to keep the ballot, by which means they could order things as they please, they soon would order good public boarding-houses for themselves and a good fat pension besides.

L. FERDINAND FLOSS.

An Old Riddle

"What is it, that is black and white and red all over?"

And the only answer is the NEWSPAPER.

It is the only publication that is READ ALL OVER—even down to the last line of the smallest "want ad."

The newspaper is read because each line in it is of interest to someone.

And not the least interesting feature is the advertising.

It is business news that is as eagerly scanned these days as the ball score or the financial columns.

All advertising is good, but no advertising has quite the hold on the people that newspaper advertising has.