The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1914.

YOUR BUTTER.

The Oregonian the other day told the story of the Chinese eggs in the Oregon market. A great many thousand dozen eggs have, since October 3, 1913, when the Wilson-Underwood tariff went into effect, been imported.

It is but the beginning. The experiment of bringing the little known egg of China into competition with the fine white egg of Oregon has been successful. Next Winter the incoming trans-Pacific steamers will be loaded with them. The Oregon hen is up against it. We have excluded the Chinaman, but we have opened wide our markets to the unbranded and unsanitary Chinese egg; and we eat it without knowing where it came from, except that a hen somewhere gave it to the world.

Now it is butter. The price is going down. There was a 2½-cent cut in Portland yesterday. The tariff is the principal cause. The American market is open to New Zealand and other foreign butter.

The fact that the cost of living is going down ought of course to be hailed with joy. But in these particulars it is being done by the sacrifice of the American producer. He is forced to divide his own market with foreign competition. He sells either at a loss or without profit.

Perhaps some eulogist of a Democratic tariff will explain how lower prices for American staples and large importations of foreign foodstuffs, involving actual loss to the American producer, will restore prosperity. The Oregonian cannot. We want cheaper butter, certainly; but will it benefit anybody if we get it below cost to the American producer?

RESEARCH THAT FAILED.

It would have been wise on the part of Director Cleveland, of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, had he had closer consultation with the representatives sent to Portland before he impugned the motives of The Oregonian, as he does in a letter published elsewhere today. "The relation of The Oregonian to the Portland work," he says, "has been unfortunate from the very beginning for a number of reasons, of which perhaps the most important was that a rival paper was influential in first bringing the Bureau to Portland." As a matter of fact, The Oregonian has not long been aware that a newspaper had exerted influence in that respect. At the "very beginning" the representatives of the Bureau in Portland stated to The Oregonian positively and definitely that they were neither allied to nor aligned with any local newspaper in the enterprise.

Moreover they announced their conviction that "system" was greater than all other considerations. Given the system they would devise and Portland's affairs could not go wrong no matter what type of officers were elected. Yet their system has gone wrong, and in spite of the fact that Portland has a pretty fair set of Commissioners. Either Mr. Cleveland is mistaken in his contention that the Bureau's salary standardization and efficiency records provide an unassailable system or his co-workers are mistaken in the theory that system is everything. The Bureau has a golden opportunity to accomplish a little standardizing and harmonizing nearer New York than is Portland. A little of those qualities applied to the opinions and statements of its own representatives would not be amiss.

The complaint against the salary standardization plan adopted on recommendation of the Bureau is that it has augmented rather than diminished the influence of politics—perhaps favoritism would be a better word—in advancements in the city's service. Efficiency ratings are in many instances matters of judgment. The exercise of judgment as to the efficiency of employes has been transferred by the new system from a single authority to several. These several efficiency markers are as prone to consider friendship, are as subject to insidious influence and are as lacking in sound discretion as was the one authority, if not more so. Charges that individual dislikes find expression in demerit marks and that personal popularity gains merit marks are frequently heard. Of course the result is demoralization and dissatisfaction among the employes.

Possibly violation of the letter of the code is in part responsible, but in a municipal corporation such neglect cannot be readily combated unless the system has the approval and confidence of the public. As Mr. Cleveland says, "one of the greatest fundamental impediments to the rapid development of efficient city government is local prejudice." The circumstances of the advent of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research to Portland did not tend to inspire public confidence. It came to tell Portland what was the matter with its city government at a time when a new charter had been drafted and was in process of presentation to the people. It came to diagnose after the remedy had been prescribed by others.

The Bureau also began its "system-is-everything" investigations during a primary election campaign held under the old charter in which men then in office were seeking nomination for re-election. The Bureau blamed all faults of the past on the system. Its reports were therefore available to further political aspirations, and its activities, whether justly or not, were given the color of a political scheme.

A wise directorate would have foreseen the outcome. It was obvious. The Bureau, among many in Portland, has thus by lack of wisdom acquired a reputation for caring more for additions to clientele than for its own good name—for willingness to be used if it gets its price. The Oregonian does not assert that this reputation is wholly justified, but it does believe that whatever usefulness there might have been in a survey and recommendations by the Bureau in Portland has been destroyed by its disregard of proprieties.

GOOD WORK.

The crusade of Mayor Albee and his private secretary, Mr. Warren, against certain lawless and demoralizing public grills of Portland has borne the following substantial results:

Denny's grill, conducted by Martin Denny at Third and Jefferson. Renewal of liquor license refused last December because of record of immorality connected with the place and its habitues.

Pittsburg grill at Sixth and Stark street. Renewal of license denied at same time and on substantially same charges.

Levens grill at Third and Ash street. Renewal of liquor license refused at same time because of charges to the effect that the place was a resort for women and men of the underworld.

Green River chili parlors at Fifth, near Madison. Renewal of liquor license refused because of immorality connected with the place and adjacent rooming-houses.

Tannensee grill at Fourth and Madison street. License revoked on July 10 on testimony of policemen and others that the place was frequented by immoral women and that the liquor laws had been violated.

Richards grill at Park and Alder street. License revoked June 26 on testimony of policemen and others showing the place to be a resort for women of the underworld. Law violations also charged.

Bottlehouse, a notorious saloon on Burnside street. License revoked July 7 on testimony of policemen and others to the effect that the place was a resort for habitual drunkards and that cheap liquor was sold and drinks were served to drunken men.

These are, or were, among the worst places in Portland. Their evil repute is well deserved. If they shall be put finally out of business, through revocation of their liquor licenses by the City Commission, an immense contribution will have been made to public decency. The father who has a wayward son or the mother who has an erring daughter will now know that he or she will be spared the necessity of searching for them in these wretched places.

THE RHODES SCHOLARS.

According to the latest accounts the American Rhodes scholars at Oxford are not such dunces as some have made them appear. They have actually taken a prize or two. The Matthew Arnold prize for an English essay and the Oldham prize for a classical essay have both been won by American youths. The classical essay was not written in Latin, we assume, or it would probably have gone to some other person.

The American students at Oxford do not shine in Latin and Greek. Their preparation in these branches is extremely defective, compared with that of boys from the good English schools, and in the university race for honors they are left far behind. We hear an extraordinary quantity of enthusiastic talk about the value of the classics from our college professors, but with talk and little else the matter ends. They have not yet mastered the art of teaching these sacred subjects effectively. Hostile critics of the Rhodes scheme of scholarships give us to understand that very few of the American students shine at Oxford in any department of scholarship.

These fault-finders aver that the intellectual work carried on in most of our schools and colleges is superficial compared with what British boys have to do. The Rhodes scholars go to Oxford, therefore, with minds comparatively untrained and with their capacity for work scarcely half developed. The consequence is that they make an inferior showing.

Since the doctors differ upon these points it is impossible for one outside the inner academic circle to form a competent opinion concerning them. It is well known, however, that while the English schools are narrow and reactionary, they teach thoroughly what they pretend to teach at all. The United States would probably not suffer any great loss if the Rhodes scholarships should be discontinued. Oxford is the most reactionary university in the world. Its spirit is wholly un-American and its influence is not likely to promote the influence of Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln upon the minds and hearts of our young men.

AS TO UNFAIR COMPETITION.

Debate in the Senate on the Trade Commission bill is resolving itself into a discussion whether unfair competition can be clearly enough defined by the Commission to make its prohibition practically without lodging too great power in that body. Some Senators contend that unfair competition can be as easily defined by the Trade Commission as unreasonable rates are defined by the Interstate Commerce Commission or as false pretenses are defined by a court.

The parallel between railroad rates and unfair competition in trade is forced, for the reason that all railroads have for sale the same commodity—transportation—which is governed by certain general rules, while the question whether competition between merchants and manufacturers is unfair must hinge upon the circumstances governing each case in each trade. In the eyes of a defeated competitor, his successful rival's competition is almost always unfair. If a manufacturer whose operations had been confined to Missouri started to extend them into Iowa by offering his goods for sale at a lower price or on easier terms than his competitors who already occupied the Iowa field, he would be pursuing a recognized custom. The Iowa consumer would have the choice of another variety at a lower price for a time, until the Missouri manufacturer had become entrenched. He would then raise his price to a fair standard. He would be doing precisely what his Iowa competitor would do in invading Missouri, but that competitor would be apt to exclaim: "Price-cutting; unfair, ruinous competition." It is the kind of competition which has been practiced successfully since the birth of trade, and it has contributed greatly to the world's material progress.

Senator Cummins suggested where to draw the line when he said that unfair competition was that which injures the public. If the Missouri corporation had a business Nationwide in scope, was reaching after monopoly through extermination or absorption of its rivals and cut prices in Iowa with this sole end in view, its methods would clearly injure the public when its design was completed. Those methods would therefore come within the prohibition of the bill, and the Commission would forbid them.

But the pursuit or exercise of monopoly injurious to the public being the test of unfairness in competition, the Trade Commission, in the exercise of its power of investigation, would be cognizant of what was going on. It would understand and interpret the practices and designs of the actual or would-be monopoly, and would report it to the Attorney-General for prosecution. The unfair competition would form an important part of the evidence for the prosecution and would receive due consideration by both the Attorney-General and the courts, as in the oil and tobacco cases, wherein it greatly influenced their action. Some of the forms which it has already taken have been condemned specifically by the Supreme Court, but it changes form as the chameleon changes color; hence it can be identified only by consideration of all the circumstances of each case, such as the Supreme Court gave.

We do not need legislation against unfair competition of itself, for it is already illegal as an incident of monopoly. The broad terms of the Sherman law, as construed by the Supreme Court, have already condemned it in all the forms it has already assumed, and the courts will doubtless continue to condemn all forms it may assume in future. The cry has gone up for many years that we have too many laws, and that we need their strict enforcement more than we need more laws. Before enacting a new law, Congress should see whether an existing law will serve its purpose. What we need chiefly in our war on the trusts is machinery such as the proposed Commission, to prevent the growth of monopoly and to enforce the Sherman law promptly and unswervingly. Prohibition of holding companies and interlocking directorates is about all the further supplemental legislation we need.

NEAR TO CONSUMMATION.

The State Supreme Court brushes aside all technical objections to the interstate bridge bonding act, and finally clears the way for the building of the great structure over the Columbia River at Vancouver. The court takes a broad view of the question and decides in effect that Multnomah County has full constitutional authority to issue bonds to improve its highways, and that the arrangement between state and county by which the former is to pay the interest and the latter to assume and finally to pay the principal, all with due legislative sanction, is wholly proper.

All along the south bank of the Columbia River from Seaside to the east boundary of Multnomah County—160 miles or more—workmen are busy with the great Columbia Highway. It is a stupendous work. Clatsop, Columbia and Multnomah Counties have joined to make this magnificent dream of a great riparian thoroughfare a substantial reality within the next year. Multnomah's share is partly done and will be practically complete, except for hard-surfacing, this year. Clatsop and Columbia are far along in the preliminaries and will finish the job in 1915. Hood River County is to vote today on a bond issue of $75,000, and the state expects that enterprising and wonderful county to do its part. Then will come Wasco; so that soon the entire length of the Columbia from The Dalles down—or later from a point beyond that city—will be bordered with the world's greatest scenic road, built, however, chiefly for utility.

Now comes confirmation of the great Columbia bridge plan. It is the most important link in the north-and-south Pacific Highway. Truly it is a great year for Oregon in its advance toward consummation of its effort for good roads.

MYSTERY OF THE VOLCANO.

Lassen Peak, the California volcano whose eruptions have attracted the attention of the world, is situated in the extreme southwest corner of Lassen County about equally distant from Susanville on the east and Redding on the northwest. Some ninety miles to the northward is Mount Shasta, an extinct volcano, which is connected with Lassen peak by a series of volcanic cones and intermittent lava beds. Modoc County, on the north of Lassen, is almost covered with lava beds whose strange distortions have excited the wonder of travelers. In their labyrinthine caverns Captain Jack and his tribe found refuge from the military for many months.

This same lava formation extends northward through Oregon and Washington and may be traced across Idaho into Montana. Around Mount Lassen the evidences of volcanic activity are plentiful. At its base geysers flow periodically with great outbursts of hot water and steam. Seven miles from its southward declivity are situated Drake Springs. At this point there issues from the earth a strong stream of hot water the year round, while not far away there are soda and sulphurous waters in abundance.

Lassen peak has been in active eruption before. It is known from the evidence of lava with trees growing upon it that there was an eruption about 200 years ago. Another, which took place in the middle of the last century, was observed by settlers and travelers. Neither of these outbursts was of exceptional violence, while the present one has been still weaker thus far. All the available evidence encourages the belief that Lassen has seen its best days as a volcano. It is now on the way to that goal of extinction which Mount Hood and its sisters reached long ago.

The first veracious account of the eruption was obtained at the beginning of June by an adventurous party from Susanville, who ascended to the edge of the crater and photographed the surroundings. One man was lowered into the smoking depths of the crater by his comrades and thus obtained a film of the interior. But since it reveals nothing but dense masses of smoke or vapor it is hardly worth the trouble and danger it cost. According to the report of this party, the heat of the eruptiojn was not fierce enough to melt the snow around the crater. It still lay there three or four feet deep when their pictures were taken and the ashes cast out by the eruption covered it. In some places this deposit was a yard deep. Great boulders were thrown out of the crater in such profusion that they now cover acres of ground near the summit of the peak.

Although it is impossible to doubt the circumstances as the Susanville party describe them, still they are not entirely consistent. It is difficult to conceive of a volcanic eruption violent enough to send out great quantities of ashes and boulders which does not at the same time develop heat enough to melt the surrounding snow. Usually heat is thought to be an indispensable factor in volcanic phenomena. Its absence in this instance seems to support the opinion of the forest rangers that the reported eruption of Lassen peak was more like a geyser than a volcano.

Various theories have been advanced to explain phenomena of this kind. Two circumstances must be accounted for. The first is the great heat which is uniformly observed. The second is the explosive violence of eruptions. There are as many diverse opinions about the origin of the heat as there are speculative scientists. Some attribute it to chemical action, others to the energy of breaks and grindings in the earth's crust. The latest hypothesis attributes it to radium, which exists in all igneous rocks and constantly emits heat. The reader is free to take his choice among these views, since nothing is settled on the subject. The explosive violence is undoubtedly due to gases of some sort. Water vapor probably plays the greatest part.

Whatever may be their immediate cause, volcanoes occur in certain well-defined regions of the world. The entire Pacific Coast from Cape Horn around through America and Asia to the Philippine Islands is the site of a volcanic chain. Most of the cones are extinct, but many are still active, and, as we see in the instance of Lassen Peak, those which appear to be dead are liable at any moment to come to life again. Whether Mount Hood will ever renew its activity is a question which nobody in the world can answer. It may help us form a fair judgment on the subject to remember that Mt. Vesuvius had been quiescent for centuries before the terrible eruption which overwhelmed Herculaneum and Pompeii.

It never rains but it pours. George W. Crites, of Newberg, who lost heavily by fire last year, sees house and home go up in smoke this Summer. In spite of all the rationalists in the world, we insist that Mr. Crites has bad luck. It is all very well to say that the universe is ruled by impartial and inexorable law and that there is no such thing as luck. But will you please explain why losses are heaped mountain high on some men's heads, while others no better or wiser go unscathed? Impartial law, forsooth! What does Mr. Crites think about it?

A municipal judge in Chicago asked a man accused of drunkenness if he was married. The answer being "No," he said:

If you promise to look around and marry some nice woman within a year, I'll let you go. If you had a wife to take care of you, you would not go out at night and get drunk.

What grudge has the judge against the nice women?

100,000 Roosevelt buttons have been delivered at the Progressive headquarters. To judge from recent Moose returns, each of the faithful will have to plaster himself like a Mexican general with medals.—New York Evening Sun.

The Mexicans' love of adornment might create a better market for the buttons than the United States offers.

The South has adopted a new plan of discrimination against the negroes. Cities are trying to segregate them in certain sections and Louisville negroes are protesting and threaten a lawsuit. Such laws in Baltimore have thrice been declared invalid by state courts.

Ex-Senator Beveridge is to be Colonel Roosevelt's substitute in the Illinois campaign against Cannon, McKinley and Rodenberg. Albert will furnish the words and George will furnish the dollars, but voters are not as easily charmed this year as in 1912.

The Duchess of Marlborough says rich women need the ballot to protect them from profligate and spendthrift sons-in-law. Would they pass a law forbidding them to give money to their sons-in-law? That would be maternal legislation.

The Wilson policy is nominally benefiting the local consumer of butter, for prospect of importations across the Pacific makes a drop in price. The welfare of the producer is not considered, which is a Democratic custom.

Pretty soon may be expected reports from Josephine County of a wild man running naked in the woods. A nature man is to do a sixty-day stunt, if the entire animal kingdom, from mosquito to cougar, will allow him.

The Irish—the genuine Irish—in Ulster were tolerant in knowledge of right and justice to come, and passed up the celebration of the anniversary as the dying spasm of a vanquished foe.

Differences that mean a strike of locomotive engineers must be settled at once. The country is not in condition for anything that will tie up the movement of a huge grain crop.

Seattle loses the Elks next year and that is a misfortune to the whole Coast, for there is no city—always excepting Portland—that can do the affair justice like Seattle.

Judge Hennessy Murphy will take notice that the House of Lords yesterday amended the home rule bill and sent it over to the Commons, and resharpen his pike.

Old Statistics says the Oregon potato crop is not as good as two years ago. That is a blessing undisguised. It was too good that year, it will be remembered.

Revelations in the Federal Court show the crop of suckers does not diminish. The gambling instinct is inborn, no matter about the disguise of the lure.

The United Railways Company, of San Francisco, being anxious to sell to the city, the city shows the buyer's customary indifference.

Perforated music gets a lower freight rate from the East, while chin music continues at the usual passenger rate.

For something reliable on the Benson-McNary contest, see the official ballot in November.

The County Commissioners did not intend all that poison for each other, at all events.

Bryan does not need to send marines to Haiti. A bunch of money will do.

Croker is coming back. That ought to stir Roosevelt.

There is something doing at Seattle, not far away.

Where is Oswald West?

EFFICIENCY CODE IS DISCUSSED

Director of New York Bureau Defends System Declared Failure in Portland.

NEW YORK, July 7.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian recently there appeared an editorial based on a news item published the previous Saturday, both of which referred in no uncertain language to the complete failure of the salary standardization and efficiency-record procedure prepared for your city by the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. This article is not intended as a reply attempting to assail your opinion of our organization or its representatives, but to present to you certain facts and situations concerning which you evidently have not been fully informed.

Any organization attempting to assist in revolutionary changes in established customs of any sort will be subjected to continual criticism by the uninformed public. In addition, criticism from instinctively unfair critics is also to be expected at any time on any subject and against any person. So we must ask you to believe that this article is not written in reply to criticism, but on account of the fact that your published statements imply that the principles of the salary standardization and efficiency records are to be abandoned in Portland.

One of the greatest fundamental impediments to the rapid development of efficient city government is local prejudice. Too often it is found that one city absolutely refuses to accept the best practices of another simply because such practices were designed, installed and first operated in another city. The field division of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research was formed primarily to act as a clearing-house for good ideas and to make the best practices of all cities available for use by every other city. With this idea in view it is not surprising that the New York bureau does not attempt to grasp credit for the original thought on every proposition which they are willing to back. This statement applies particularly to the salary standardization and efficiency-record work included in the Portland administrative code. It would be ridiculous for this organization to claim complete credit for the Trojan work done in salary standardization and efficiency-record development in Chicago, in New York and in many other cities, the best points of which have been included in the Portland administrative code, with adaptations for local conditions and one or two other changes which have since been admitted to be superior to former procedure.

Of the procedure described in that chapter of the Portland administrative code relating to salary standardization and efficiency records, 90 per cent of the detail had already been in successful operation in many cities and several large corporations. The principle of salary standardization is absolutely unassailable. This is not our opinion, but the universal opinion of those who have made a study of similar conditions.

As a matter of history you may be interested to know that while the investigation of salary conditions was in progress, the fact that many of the principles proposed were already in use was made known to the Portland city officials and the representatives of the local press. They were also informed by the representatives of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research that they must be prepared for a very trying situation because the salary standardization and efficiency-record work was a knockout blow for dispensing political patronage under cover of the city's civil service. Of all the confirmed practices of the old-time wasteful or dishonest political administration of government none dies harder than patronage. The prophecy seems to have been a statement of fact.

As human nature seems to encourage criticism of those who are away from the scene of action, and as the New York Bureau of Municipal Research needs no favorable criticism from disgruntled city employes whose salaries have been decreased through the application of principles of standardization or efficiency records, the Portland city officials were advised that it might facilitate their work if all unfavorable criticism were shifted to the shoulders of the representatives of the New York bureau who were engaged on this work. This suggestion seems to have taken root, as exemplified particularly by the description of those representatives included in your editorial comment. That question is not important per se—but if such criticism is developing a state of mind in the city officials and citizens of Portland to such a degree that the principles of salary standardization and efficiency records are being questioned, then something should be done to change the trend of thought.

We wish it clearly understood that the New York Bureau of Municipal Research has no quarrel with The Oregonian or with your opinions of our organization. The relation of The Oregonian to the Portland work has been unfortunate from the very beginning for a number of reasons, of which, perhaps, the most important was that a rival paper was influential in first bringing the bureau to Portland. You may object to the personnel of our institution, but we assume that you surely are in accord with the good government and efficiency citizenship movements of which the New York Bureau of Municipal Research is but a part. The principle of salary standardization is an integral part of the good government movement, and, as such, we trust that it will be possible for you to make a thorough investigation of what salary standardization and efficiency records really mean—a considerably broader field than that outlined through a rehash of City Hall criticism by a City Hall reporter. May we suggest that you give this letter the same publicity as was given to adverse criticism?

F. A. CLEVELAND,
Director.

Money a Great Blessing.

Stanford Chaparral.

Gibbs—So you send your wife to the mountains for three months every Summer? It's great to have money.

Dibbs—Yes. Money is certainly a great blessing.

Picking a Place.

By Dean Collins.

So many places are there to go,
When one begins an investigation,
That really, truly it's hard to know
What trip is best for a man's vacation.
Maps and pamphlets are there galore;
One cons them carefully o'er and o'er,
But after he reads them all he'll find
'Tis deuced hard to make up his mind.

Here 's a European trip;
Here a vovage to the Indies bright;
Here a Mediterranean ship
With a cruise that's nice—and the price all right.
England, Germany, France and Spain,
Italy, Greece—I say again
They all look good. One is sorely pressed
To settle upon which trip is best.

Hunting trips in the Northern-wood;
Fishing out o'er the deep-sea banks;
Yachting; trips where the scenes are good;
Equally fine each prospect ranks.
And the man who studies the matter o'er,
Finds himself baffled more and more,
From all this list of attractive haunts
To settle upon which one he wants.

Dainty cities of far Japan;
Cairo, Rome or Vienna fair;
Tiflis, Singapore, Ketchikan;
Hundreds of places are listed there.
I can't determine just which is best,
But on that score I am not distressed;
I need not pick on a destination—
I'm sticking at home in this vacation.

ARBITRARY ACTION ENCOURAGED

For That Reason Correspondent Objects to Film Censor Ordinance.

PORTLAND, July 13.—(To the Editor.)—The city film censors, who are demanding a more drastic ordinance under which to work, stand in need of a little common-sense reflection, lest they go to an extreme that may lose them the respect of all right-minded and clear-thinking people.

How much room for misunderstanding and arbitrary official action is possible under the wording of the proposed ordinance is easily imagined when the enumeration of things forbidden is read. Thus it is made unlawful to exhibit any picture or film of "any nude human figure . . . or a thing of an obscene, indecent or immoral nature."

This sounds very proper, indeed, but all these adjectives do not represent fixed qualities by any means. On the contrary, people's notions as to just what is "nude," "obscene," "indecent" or "immoral" differ very widely.

For instance, would the censors, under the proposed ordinance, be inclined to prohibit the Annette Kellerman pictures, now at the Hellig? Anyone who can see anything indecent, obscene or immoral in that splendid film must have a particularly depraved mind. The nudity of a beautiful body can no more be indecent to a thoroughly wholesome man or woman or to a properly trained boy or girl than is an uncovered face and neck. In Mohammedan countries even to show the face unveiled is considered "obscene," and a woman loses caste by doing so.

In other words, obscenity and indecency do not lie in the external object per se, but in the perceiving mind. Two persons, both intelligent and responsible, will view a picture. To one it will be indecent; to the other, a beautiful work of art. We had an illustration of this a year or so ago in the case of "September Morn." A Chicago policeman said the painting was "lewd and lascivious," but a jury, after hearing testimony, found that the attributes complained of had their existence only in the policeman's mind, and the art dealer who exhibited the picture in his show window was acquitted.

Would a film representation of some of the wonderfully beautiful nude dances of the ancient Greeks be classed as indecent under the new ordinance? We have had such dances on the stage from time to time in Portland. People are never corrupted by such dances. But there are persons who bring corrupt souls to the theater; they project the evil within themselves into the thing they see and then are firmly convinced that it ought to be suppressed. They are too stupid or too degraded to understand that the cleaner our minds the less evil we see in nature and nature's manifold works.

The celebrated Havelock Ellis has pointed out that nothing contributes so much to sound morality as becoming accustomed from youth up to the sight of the nude human body. To invest it with even a hint of impurity is demoralizing to both the young and the mature. Let us hope that our film censors may not unconsciously become accessories to that process of demoralization by condemning that which is only wholesome, natural and beautiful.

MRS. G. A.

ORANGE COVENANT HELD HUMBUG.

Delphic Wording Seen in Pledge to Resist Home Rule.

PORTLAND, July 14.—(To the Editor.)—There was no trouble in Ulster July 12 and 13. Nor did Carson, speaking for the Ulster reactionaries, "defy the government," nor has he ever "defied the government." Whatever else he may be, he is no gull in the skin of a decoy duck. Nor does the Orange covenant defy the government. It defies an event that is not yet an event. When the Dublin Parliament is established by the authority of the Crown, then will be the time to defy its authority—an authority maintained by 250,000 armed Nationalist volunteers, if not by the military arm of the empire.

Says one of the editors of the "American and English Encyclopedia of Law," James David Kenny, in the July Forum:

This is what the covenant says upon the question of resistance. "And in the event of such a parliament being thrust upon us, we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to resist its authority."

This statement shows what a crafty and tricky document the covenant is, for the covenanters, with the provisions of the government of Ireland bill before them, knew that they were entirely safe in writing down a solemn pledge which was a solemn humbug. They didn't dare to pledge themselves to resist the authority of the Parliament of Great Britain, for if they did, they might all be hanged, and some of them, no doubt, would be to let them see that there was a material difference between one parliament and the other.

Moreover, the result of the "Battle of the Boyne" was not a triumph of Protestantism over Catholicism; it has been tortured into such by the leaders of the ascendancy party for their own base purposes. One of the articles agreed to between James and the Irish chieftains, before they would take up his cause, was religious tolerance. This demand by the Irish chiefs of James has been emphasized in many of Grattan's orations, and can be found in any standard history of those times. James cared as much for a Catholic as he did for a Protestant, and he cared little for either. What concerned him was the recovery of his throne.

J. HENNESSY MURPHY.

Lack of Fellowship in Churches.

PORTLAND, July 13.—(To the Editor.)—On several dates I have read articles in The Oregonian on the matter of church-going. One of the writers in particular laments the non-church-going especially among the newcomers who were active in church work back East, but after coming to this great Western country lose interest and in many cases quit going to church altogether.

If you will allow me a little space I will give a little of my own experience. I came to Portland 10 years ago, was active in church work back East, and expected to continue my activity after landing in this glorious Western country. So, on my first Sunday in Portland, I attended one of the churches of my choice; also on the following Sunday, and so on for five consecutive Sundays. But not one person spoke to me during all this time. But being of a charitable nature and having great respect for the cause, I tried with all my powers to look at the matter as simply an oversight on the part of the good people attending that church. After attending a week-night prayer meeting, at which there were about 150 people, and after taking part with many others in song and prayer, as was my custom in the East, I gave it up. At the close of that meeting not one gave me a word, much less a welcome hand.

Good people, don't blame the stranger in a strange land who comes to you for Christian fellowship and sympathy, and finds none, if he naturally turns to the world. I must say that as cold as this world seems to some of us, we can find among thousands of non-church-going people a warm welcome, a handshake and a good word.

READER.

Whose Pigeon Was This?

RIDGEFIELD, Wash., July 13.—(To the Editor.)—I have found the remains of what I suppose was a carrier pigeon in my wheat field. No. 439 was stamped on one wing and on one leg is a red rubber band with No. 230H, also a glass band marked thus: AJ 27439. A cat had evidently caught the bird. Can you tell me where this bird came from? Please answer in Oregonian.

J. ANDERSON.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of July 15, 1889.

Pacific Grove, July 14.—The Tenth Annual Assembly of the Pacific Coast Branch of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle will close this evening. Bishop H. W. Warren, of California, delivered the sermon this morning.

Olympia, Uuly 14.—It is rumored that the steamer Multnomah, of Portland, will soon be put on the route between Olympia and Kamilchie.

Buffalo, July 14.—William Burnley has been awarded a patent on what he styles a combined telegraph and telephone device. This was tested on a circuit one mile in length. It enables two persons to use one wire for the double service of telephoning and telegraphing at the same time.

A move is being made by the citizens of La Grande to raise $25,000 for the erection of a good hotel.

Miss Myra Scott, daughter of James M. and Rachel Scott, died yesterday.

The stock subscription book of the Real Estate Exchange is now in the hands of the incorporators, Messrs. Griffin, Flower, Stearns, McCaffrey and Hall.

Charles E. Leland has completed arrangements to become manager of the Portland Hotel.

Day Clerk Pendegast, of the Esmond Hotel, has figured out that 540,000 people visit Portland every year.

Congressman Binger Hermann will today begin his tour of the state to learn the Legislative needs of the people.

W. J. Gilmore's great scenic and ballet spectacle, "The Twelve Temptations," will be produced at the New Park this evening.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of July 15, 1864.

At the Philadelphia Sanitary Fair on June 14, the vote on the $2500 sword stood: Hancock, 1172; Meade, 1828; McClellan, 125; Grant, 94. Receipts had reached $1,000,000.

Philadelphia, July 12.—The wires are again cut by the rebels between Baltimore and Washington.

Baltimore, July 12.—The American has information from Frederick that the rebels were driven out yesterday at 9 A. M. by the advance of Cole's cavalry, who had a little fight with a small body of rebels in the street. During the time the rebels had possession, foraging parties were sent through the country and came in, bringing droves of cattle, sheep and hogs, literally filling the main streets, which were sent across into Virginia.

New York, July 13.—The Herald has the following in regard to the capture of the trains south of Havre de Grace, about 12 miles from Gunpowder bridge: On pistol shots being heard the train stopped. The rebels entered with pistols in hand and ordered the passengers out. As they went out, they were robbed of their watches and money with the cocked pistols at their heads. The cars were then set on fire. General William B. Franklin, passenger on the first train, on being asked by the rebels who he was, replied, "Nobody of any account." The guard passed out, but the Baltimore women told who he was, when they returned, demanded his papers and took him in charge. The lady passengers were well treated and appeared to be acquainted wi many of the rebels, whom they greeted most affectionately.

The weekly meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening. A petition from the O. S. N. Company relating to the improvement of half of Pine street on the river front in connection with the construction of a new wharf was referred. The same committee reported an ordinance for the grading of Main street from Front to Fourth.

The bark Cambridge leaves tomorrow for the Sandwich Islands with a cargo of lumber, shingles, staves, oats, salmon, pitch, varnish and spirits of turpentine. The Cambridge made the present trip to Portland upon experiment.

A crowd of boys are in the habit of congregating at the corner of Front and Washington streets, where the workmen on Mr. Parrish's new building obtain water for mixing mortar, and molest the tank by getting drinks, etc. A son of Erin determined to put a stop to the botheration and at noon yesterday tumbled one of the boys into the reservoir, nearly terminating in a squabble for his life.

J. K. Howe has received papers from New York relating to his invention for manufacturing wheels, sawing, planing, boring, etc., which are the precursors of his patent.

The exhibit of the financial affairs of Multnomah County for the year ending June 5, 1864, shows total receipts of $55,333.69, expenditures of $37,855.20, and balance in the treasury of $28,490.70.

Died—Near Belpassi, of scarlet fever, John Rigdon Guerin, son of James F. and Catherine Guerin, aged 5 years and 11 months; July 12, Frank Beadhurst, son of E. W. Tracy and M. J. Tracy, aged 6 years and 8 months. Funeral this day at 2 P. M. at the residence of Mr. Tracy, on North Fourth street.

Public Lands in Oregon.

VANCOUVER, Wash., July 13.—(To the Editor.)—Is there any homestead land in Oregon? What are the filing fees and how long does a person have to live on it to prove up on it?

J. F. H.

Write to Portland Chamber of Commerce for booklet on Oregon public lands.

No.

PORTLAND, July 13.—(To the Editor.)—In a cribbage game if four cards are played like the following, 8, 6, 7, 6, will the last six make a run?

A READER.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

Teach the children to read the advertising in your favorite newspaper.

It is good clean reading and it will both interest and educate.

The illustrations and typography in the more carefully prepared business bulletins will appeal to the artistic sense so keen in every little brain.

The information gives them an insight into business—shows them that aggressive men don't wait for trade to come to them—but go after it.

Merchants find it pays to appeal to children—and often the advertisements are especially written to appeal to the younger generation.

The children friends of today are the important customers of tomorrow.