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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, FEB. 23, 1915.

STAND UP FOR NEUTRAL RIGHTS.

The war is being conducted on the theory that neutrals have no rights which belligerents are bound to respect. Whatever rights neutrals continue to enjoy are apparently conceded by belligerents in a spirit of moderation, which is rapidly yielding to their growing ferocity, rather than through recognition of any definite rights of neutrals which belligerents admit their obligation to respect. The sinking of the American ship Evelyn by a mine off the German coast is the latest consequence of this disregard of neutral rights.

The second Hague treaty forbids the planting of unanchored contact mines unless they become harmless one hour after the person laying them ceases to control them. It also forbids laying anchored mines which do not become harmless on breaking loose from their moorings. It forbids laying contact mines off an enemy's coast or ports with the sole object of intercepting commercial shipping. Only Britain and a few other powers signed this treaty and it, therefore, never became effective. Even had it been signed and given effect as international law, its observance depended on the good faith of belligerents, for no force was provided to compel observance. During the present war the only means of enforcement would be war by neutrals against any belligerent which violated it.

Regardless of Hague treaties and all other paper restraints, neutrals have certain elementary rights which belligerents should be compelled to respect. It may be no affair of neutrals what barbarities belligerents perpetrate upon each other at sea or in each other's territory, but no physical injury should be tolerated by neutrals unless their citizens get in the way of warships or land forces in actual combat. Neutrals can justly combine in support of the principle that the sea is the highway of all nations and that the rights of belligerents are limited to actual fighting on that highway and to prevention of military supplies reaching their enemy. This principle would forbid the broadcast sowing of unanchored mines or the planting of anchored mines which do not become harmless when they break loose. It would also forbid the use of a neutral flag to procure immunity of belligerent ships from search, capture or destruction. It would forbid the destruction of neutral vessels by submarines without attempt to determine whether the cargoes were contraband and would especially forbid the drowning of crews in sinking merchant ships, whether neutral or belligerent. Neutrals should have a voice in revising the list of contraband and in so regulating search of neutrals' ships as to prevent unreasonable delay and interference with neutral commerce.

Neutrals have a common interest in the establishment of these rules, for all those which have ocean shipping have suffered in some degree. One would suppose from reading of the sinking of neutrals' ships that Germany or Great Britain was at war with the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland or Italy or all of them. The claims of these neutrals for damages are referred to prize courts of the offending belligerent, which decide according to that belligerent's interpretation of international law. If the neutral is dissatisfied with the decision, it is advised to settle the matter by the slow and tortuous methods of diplomacy. The belligerent's foreign office is too busy to effect prompt settlement and tries to defer the matter till after the war. Meanwhile the offense is repeated, neutral commerce is destroyed and neutral lives are lost. This is a situation which no self-respecting nation should tolerate.

The common interest of neutrals requires united action in defense of their rights. Senator La Follette's resolution in favor of a congress of neutrals is deserving of support, so far as it relates to concerted action to assert their own rights. At the present stage of the war it would be useless for such an assembly to talk of peace. Neither party is willing to consider terms of peace, for neither is beaten, and neither will listen to offers of mediation until it is beaten. A congress of neutrals should confine its labors to definition and maintenance of neutral rights, as viewed by them, not as viewed by belligerents.

Such a congress could enforce respect. At its head would stand the United States and it would include Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland; probably Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria and Greece, unless they should in the meantime become involved in the war. It would also include all Central and South American states, several of which have strictly enforced neutrality on belligerent ships. These nations might agree on a declaration of neutral rights which they would call upon all belligerents to respect under threat of hostile measures against recalcitrants.

Nothing is farther from the desires of The Oregonian than the addition of the United States or any other neutral nation to the list of belligerents. The possibilities of the situation are mentioned for the sole purpose of showing that the neutrals are not so helpless to defend themselevs as the belligerents in their arrogance seem to imagine. The serious possibility that the combined power of the neutrals might be turned against her would cause either Britain or Germany to pause. A threat backed by sufficient force and by a firm determination to use that force, if driven to extremes, would probably suffice to bring both of the chief offenders to reason, for neither is willing to reinforce the other by refusing to give up the relatively slight advantage of maintaining its own definition of neutral rights. The situation is such that belligerents are in no position to dictate to united and determined neutrals; on the contrary, the neutrals would be in a position to dictate to the belligerents, if they would unite and stand firm.

THEIR TEARS.

It is touching to observe the lachrymose collaboration of our virtuous neighbor, the Evening Journal, and Ex-Governor West over the threatened or fancied "return to the spoils system" in Oregon through the enactment of a measure giving the absolute authority of removal to the appointive power at Salem, whether Governor, Secretary, State Treasurer, Board of Control, or what not. The ex-Governor seems to fear that the West hold-overs are to get their walking papers, and his newspaper coadjutor makes some hectic observations on the Moser act and the Legislature's abuse of the emergency clause, which was added "for the sole purpose of placing the bill beyond the reach of the people and the referendum."

The Supreme Court says that the Legislature is the sole judge of the use of the emergency clause. There seems to be no power of review, except by newspapers and ex-Governors. But now that the subject appears worthy of the distinguished attention of Mr. West and his newspaper friend, perhaps they will give the public the benefit of their joint opinion as to the reasons for adding the emergency clause to H. B. 421, passed at the session of 1913, and not vetoed by Governor West.

In 1911 the Legislature authorized the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer to buy certain grounds adjacent to the State Capitol and for the erection of a modern fireproof building for the Supreme Court and State Library. The appropriation was $150,000; "but," it was added, "the cost of purchasing and acquiring such land and erection of a suitable building thereon, for the purposes mentioned, shall in no case exceed the sum above appropriated."

When the Legislature of 1913 met, it found an unfinished Supreme Court building near the capitol, and it appropriated $170,000 more for completion, for furnishings and for a heating plant; and it added an emergency clause wherein it was duly recited that the "public health, peace and safety" required that the sum of $170,000 be expended at once.

Here was a case where the state, embarking on a $150,000 investment, ended in a $320,000 investment, through the direct sanction or connivance of the Governor.

Was or was not the emergency clause to H. B. 421 added "for the sole purpose of placing the bill beyond the reach of the people and the referendum"?

COMMISSIONER PARRY.

President Wilson does not relieve his record for unyielding partisanship by his appointments to the Federal Trade Commission. There are five members, not more than three of whom shall belong to the same political party.

There is no criticism to be made of the fact that the President, in literal compliance with the law, names three Democrats; but he has so manipulated the remaining two memberships that the Republican party is denied recognition. It is true that word is given out at the White House that Mr. Parry is a Progressive Republican, while Mr. Rublee is an outright Progressive; but the statement as to Mr. Parry amounts to equivocation. He is a third party progressive and is now the chairman of the King County Progressive League, and he has, and pretends to have, no affiliation with the Republican party. It would seem that the President was aware of the criticism certain to be made of his outright effort to capture the Progressives, and he sought to meet it by making a political showing for Mr. Parry not warranted by the exact circumstances.

It ought, besides, to be easy to justify the nomination of Mr. Parry on its merits. Aside from its political significance or insignificance—and there is no politics in the Federal Trade Commission except as President Wilson has played politics—it is an excellent appointment. Mr. Parry is known in Oregon, where some years ago he was a newspaper editor. A quarter of a century since he went to Seattle, and it was not long before he became a real force in affairs. He abandoned journalism for finance, and he has had a controlling hand in many large projects, both public and private. He has always had a wide and intelligent interest in public affairs, so that his equipment for the Federal Trade Commissionership is quite complete. There is no risk in the prophecy that Mr. Parry will render exceedingly competent service in his new place.

A PRIZE PLAY.

Prize pigs are usually the best of their kind and prize hens shine with a prolific and unapproachable luster, but it is different with plays, stories and poems. Prize poems are the dullest things in print. The stories which win the thousand dollars or the five hundred offered by enterprising publishers as an inspiration to genius are read as a matter of duty by the more conscientious part of the public and forgotten as rapidly as possible.

Alice Brown's prize play has traveled the common road. It is failure. Miss Brown is known and loved as the author of some of the best short stories in the world. Her chosen theme is New England life, with its acerbities and rocky virtues, and she has treated it with consummate charm, but playwriting is not quite the same as composing short stories. It requires another kind of ability, which Miss Brown may or may not have. She wrote her play, "The Children of Earth," to compete for a prize of $10,000 proposed by Winthrop Ames, the New York manager and dramatic uplifter. The play won the prize and Mr. Ames produced it at the New Theater, but it has not pleased the public and it is now withdrawn.

Literature written under the inspiration of money is not necessarily bad. Shakespeare frankly wrote his plays for "what there was in them." Dickens attended very carefully to the money end of the literary business, and most successful writers of our day do the same. There is only now and then one who, like Mr. Howells, produces a long series of fairly popular books and remains poor at the end of his career. Miss M. E. Braddon made a round million by her excellent novels and kept it. The trouble with prize literature is not the money lure, but the lack of inspiration. Shakespeare would have written plays if starvation had been his portion for doing it. Nothing could have prevented Dickens from writing novels. That was his bent. The happiness of his life depended on it. He liked the money it brought him, but he liked the work better. But when a person writes for a prize the money is everything and the muse nothing. Authors under such false inspiration are apt to set about tasks for which they have no innate liking and no special gift. A prize offered to a person to do a piece of literary work which he was already planning would not harm him, but if he were moved to undertake it by the prize, experience shows that the product would in nine cases out of ten be bad.

THE SPIRIT OF GOVERNMENT.

If it be true that 62,376 citizens voted last November to abolish the State Senate, it is also true that 123,429 declared for retention of the present representative system. It is perhaps too much to say that it was a vote of confidence in the Senate; but unquestionably it was a protest against the schemes of the abolishers and wreckers who have had entirely too much to say in Oregon and who are being heeded less and less as time rolls on. People will no longer discard tried methods for novelties and experiments. They have had enough; too much indeed.

It may be and is true that the representative system is not perfect. Nor are men perfect. Is any system better than the man behind it? What is to take the place of the State Senate or the Legislature? There is no urgent call for commission government for the state. Nor do any except the shallowest protagonists favor resort to the initiative for all laws. It is hard to say what to substitute for the Legislature. That is one reason why there will not soon be a change.

Fanatical and demagogical clamor is not popular just now—not so popular as it was. Probably it is better understood than heretofore that ninety men in a Legislature, chosen by popular vote, are not as a body different in patriotism, purpose and intelligence, and even in practice, from the same ninety men in their respective homes.

Possibly five men of the same character, acting as a commission, would do better for the state as a whole. But the state must then wholly abandon in its affairs the principle of local representation by its active and important men in a Legislature. Then what?

OUR INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT.

We are fond of boasting that ours is a well-governed country, but is it? Is not the fact that we prefer to govern it indifferently well ourselves rather than let some monarch govern it, well or ill? Lord Beaconsfield replied to a critic forty years ago that the per capita rate of taxation in Great Bratain was more than fifty per cent less than the aggregate of Federal, State and local taxation in this country. Since then the per capita rate of taxes in this country has enormously increased.

The obvious explanation of this excessive cost of governmental machinery is that those who operate it are incompetent and wasteful, yet we are continually asked to add more machines of the same kind to be operated by the same kind of men. The present Administration has greatly increased our expenses while reducing our income, yet it proposes that we add a shipping business which it forewarns us would be run at a loss for an indefinite period. It asks us to entrust the telegraph and telephone business to it, and it attempts to usurp the authority of the states over their water resources.

The American people should not enlarge the functions of their Government until they have brought it to a fair degree of efficiency in performing those functions which it already performs, particularly those which cannot be performed through any other agency. Since attention has been seriously turned to reform of our municipal governments, it may be said that, generally speaking, the inefficiency of a governmental machine increases with its size. In this respect, states are usually worse than cities, and the Federal Government is worst of all. Let the Government bring about reasonable efficiency in National defense, in execution of the law, in control of interstate commerce, improvement of waterways, and administration of the public land. That done, it will have some justification for asking the people to give it more work to do. It cannot now be trusted with more because it has not made good with what it has already undertaken.

ITEM VETO FOR PRESIDENT.

The item veto is proposed by the Baltimore Sun as a means of promoting economy in National expenditures and of fixing responsibility for extravagance. This suggestion was prompted by a statement of the New York Tribune that Representatives Underwood and Fitzgerald went to President Wilson with suggestions that would save $50,000,000 in appropriations. Postmaster-General Burleson is said to "have advanced informally the President's approval of a $50,000,000 cut, without specification of the items to be omitted, but the House leaders declined to put up to Congress the unpopular task of cutting out appropriations." In other words, they ask the President to exercise an informal item veto on appropriations before they are reported to the House.

Some of the reductions which the House leaders are said to have suggested are such as would occur at first thought to any person who is ordinarily well informed on National affairs, namely $18,000,000 for rivers and harbors, $9,000,000 for public buildings and $2,000,000 for an agricultural census. But they proposed also to cut off the $2,000,000 for the Alaska railroad and to reduce the naval construction programme by $15,000,000 to $23,000,000. These Democratic economists fail to distinguish between the outright waste which mars river and harbor and building bills and the wise investment in developing Alaska in the one case or the necessary provision for our National defense in another. If they really wish to stop waste on the Navy they can do so without abating one dollar of the construction work. All they need do is to close and sell the useless navy yards on which over $68,000,000 has been wasted. That procedure alone would realize at least a good share of the amount they propose to save by further impairing the efficiency of the Navy.

The action of the House leaders was an evident attempt to shirk responsibility by "passing the buck" to the President. Some justification is found in the President's practice of dictating the provisions of bills before they are presented to Congress. Yet it is the duty of Congress to practice economy on its own responsibility and to leave approval or disapproval of its action to the President after it has acted. If it wishes to place the initial responsibility on him it should adopt ex-President Taft's recommendation of a budget system.

The item veto would not only be advisable as a check on extravagance after Congress has acted, but would incline Congress to regard the budget system with more favor. If the President were committed in advance to the declaration that certain detailed expenditures should be made and that certain revenue was available to meet them he would have to assume a full share of responsibility for waste and for deficits. The power of the item veto is capable of abuse, but so is any power. No Executive can have power to do good without opportunity to do evil. It is for the people to elect the best man they can find and then to trust him.

The new censorship of the movies will no doubt save many souls. It will also furnish welcome occupation for a few good men and women who are anxious to make the multitude as moral as they are themselves. This is a formidable task, but the joy of forcing virtue into unwilling hearts is perennial. The labor ever brings its own reward.

The "unemployed union" has tabulated the vocations of its 1612 members, with the causes of their hapless plight. Their trades run through the gamut of human arts and crafts. Quite surprisingly, there are two potters, five gardeners and one male nurse. One does not often expect these jobs to forsake those who live by them.

If report by way of the Vatican be true that Germany is desirous of peace the world will rejoice to see her desires fulfilled. She need not worry over any discredit attaching to a drawn battle, for already she ranks as the greatest fighting nation on earth. The pity, however, is that the rumor must be without foundation.

The new Berlin loaf baked of rice flour and potatoes should be nutritious and palatable. But since rice must be almost as scarce as wheat it can only be a stop-gap. A Montana man is advertising alfalfa bread, which he says is superior to wheat. Berlin might perhaps profit by his suggestion.

The day of the sailing vessel has come round again. Steam-propelled craft have so largely been "interned, hidden or drafted into government service" that the old, reliable wind is called into service again and all sorts of tottering derelicts have spread their sails. They are making money, too.

Sarah Bernhardt has lost her right leg, but not an atom of her courage. She plans to replace it artificially and go right on acting. The world needs all its Bernhardts in the present desperate extremity. Sarah's fortitude is a blessing to herself and an inspiration to us all.

Gravely and in good faith a British marine paper offers great reward to the first merchantman that rams a German submarine. It is possible that an elephant step on a single hornet, but the feat is not of record.

Mr. Larry Shanahan is master of vigorous English on his favored subject, but many readers will object to use of foreign words. Who, for example, can tell offhand what manner of beast is an "omadhaun"?

The project of formulating a "civic creed" for Portland school children deserves encouragement. If the one ultimately adopted is as sound as Denver's it will inspire to better living every pupil who learns it.

A local peace propagandist sees a great opportunity for America to take a hand. We see a more probable opportunity for the United States to lose a hand and possibly a foot or two.

From Caldwell, N. J., comes the report that lingerie saved a man. We should hate to compile a list of those who have been lost by the same nefarious devices.

Legislators, according to a dispatch, were in a merry mood at the end of the session, not to mention the public's feelings in the matter.

Thompson Seton, or vice versa, according to the latest whim, has ceased to violate neutrality by commanding American Boy Scouts.

Austria's proposal to use submarines in the Adriatic will not be taken seriously. France will go over and tie cans to them.

Smoot wants $30,000,000 the first year for submarines, and, viewing events abroad, the country will agree with him.

Another little batch of 100,000 rose bushes planted in Portland. Soon the whole local landscape will resemble a rainbow.

The German submarines may sink Irish coasters with a free hand, well knowing there is not an Irish navy to hinder.

More reports come that the allies are making heavy gains. Must refer to poker games in the trenches.

About time for watchful waiting to be announced as a solution for the whole difficulty with Europe.

If a British troopship has been submarined the first chapter of the end of the war is on the press.

Parry was nominated and that about finishes the honors for this North Pacific Coast.

Berlin reports a secret new recipe for bread. Extracted from powder smoke, we take it.

An American vessel sunk in the North Sea. One solution is to keep 'em at home.

Von Hindenberg has put another hundred thousand Russians in cold storage.

The Legislature ended with joyous song, which was something of an anticlimax.

Imagine how shocked a fellow will feel to see his grandmother in trousettes.

The Evelyn, like other objects of misfortune, was insured. Why worry?

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian February 23, 1890.

London—Lord Tennyson's malady is assuming the form of severe bronchial catarrh.

Prescott, Ariz.—The large storage dam across the Hassayampa River, built only two years ago by the Walnut Grove Storage Company, gave way yesterday morning, and the pressure of the resultant flood swept all before it. Forty are known to have been drowned, and it is believed many others met a similar fate. Great fears are entertained for the town of Wickenburg, 30 miles away in the path of the flood.

Paris—Sarah Bernhardt, on being interviewed as to her proposed impersonation of the Virgin Mary in the new passion play, announced she would go into seclusion and lead an austere life in preparation for the play. "Just as when I was studying Camille I went to a hospital to study the consumptive cough, so do I intend to learn this role of an absolutely perfect woman by leading an austere life for several weeks and force myself to believe I am a simple country maiden," said the great actress. "I am confident of success. Look at Oberammergau. There the sacrifice itself was displayed, winning the applause of thousands, and can I, la Bernhardt, fail? Why cannot I move tens of thousands by the presentation of this perfect story of the divine heroine? It will stir all Paris to its very soul."

"But some people may think the play blasphemous," the interviewer interjected.

"Blasphemous?" she answered. "Impossible! I shall play it and my art shall conceal all offense."

New York—John Jacob Astor died yesterday morning of heart failure. Astor was perhaps the richest man in America—certainly he was the head of the wealthiest family in this country. The benefactions of Astor and his wife, who died two years ago, were many and great. Mr. Astor was the eldest son of the late William Astor and the grandson of the original John Jacob Astor, who founded the fortunes of the family. During the war Astor went to the front and served as aide-de-camp to General McClellan. He is succeeded by an only son, William Waldorf Astor, who some years ago was Minister to Italy.

Port Townsend—Miss Regina Rothschild will leave on March 17 for a trip around the world in less than 60 days. Citizens have raised $3000, and it is proposed to have her beat Citizen George Train, of Boston, who leaves Tacoma on the same day going west.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Breden have returned from an enjoyable pleasure trip through the East.

It is generally observed that Signor Salvini will leave this country having made fewer acquaintances than any foreign actor who ever visited many months on this soil. The chief reason is that Salvini, who is a very sociable man and much in demand, has never taken the trouble to learn our language.

The cable road was formally opened yesterday with auspicious observances, and it seems to be a pronounced success.

ARMED PREPARATION IS URGED.

Hanford, Wash., Man Says Government Should Feel People's Pulse.

HANFORD, Wash., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—It appears to me that because this Government never takes any action towards anything worth while, unless backed by a majority of the people, principally for political reasons, the only way for the people to get what they feel is their rights is to make noisy appeals through the newspapers. So let us make noise.

It is a known fact that this great country of ours is very much in need of better protection in the way of Army and Navy. It reminds one of a beautiful child wandering in the wilderness among dangerous beasts of prey.

The way things are shaping up looks like trouble ahead for the United States and that the only way it can possibly be averted, if such a thing is possible, is by arming ourselves to protect our rights, so that foreign warlike nations will have due respect.

The United States, with its vast size and wealth, backed by a fair showing of naval strength together with some semblance of an army and reserve, would command this respect. We should have at least 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 of trained reserves, for the support of our Army, and our Navy should be doubled.

Germany, the only nation that might be classed as our friend, that would be liable to come to our support in case of trouble, is being reduced by the whole of Europe, with the help of this country. Japan is being held in reserve by England to help them in case their bluff should be called. England never has been a friend to this country. We remember how they fought side by side with savages against our fathers in early days, and when we read over the Declaration of Independence it does not calm our fears. Our neighbor Canada even reflects this same spirit and will not allow a moving picture to be shown where "Old Glory" is shown.

I believe that preparedness for war is a guarantee of peace, provided it is based on justice.

The "whole hog or none" policy of some of the European nations certainly would not be conducive of peace.

Let us tell our Government what we want and demand it. It is our rights.

RICHARD ROZELL.

GLORY UNCOVERED.

Methinks I can fathom thy heart's aspirations,
Thy soul's fleeting moments to realms unknown;
Nature's everyday gifts hold forth no temptations,
Thou cravest for glory, fame and renown.

Yet honors and triumps and all such attainments
Are naught but a cradle of mere discontent;
Thy soul's true ambition needs no such achievements
When to achieve if your life thou needs spend.

Then, harken to reason, abandon thy soaring,
The high goal thou seekest is not but a myth;
Life's shadows descending upon thee and longing
To draw thee down its dark labyrinth.

Then wake while you may yet to joy and temptations,
Grandeur and glory are only a dream,
Riches and honors but small compensation;
Let nature allot thee thy proper sphere.

ANNA GOLDEN.

Portland.

P. J. Smith Not the Tailor.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—It will be a great kindness to me to print in your paper that the letter published by you yesterday and signed P. J. Smith is not P. J. Smyth, the merchant tailor.

P. J. SMYTH.

American Flags in Europe.

Baltimore American.

There is a market in Europe just now for miniature American flags in the form of silk or cotton bunting and stickpins. American citizens there find the flag most convenient.

IRELAND AND HOME RULE RIGHTS

Mr. Ryan Answers Mr. Murphy on the Issues of War and State.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I respectfully ask The Oregonian to publish this reply to J. Hennesy Murphy, who advises his Irish friends that their present duty is to kiss the hand that smote their native land for centuries, because of the home rule bill, which he erroneously styles a great charter of liberty.

This boasted charter of liberty gives less power to the proposed Irish Parliament than the City of Portland gives municipal authority to this city. The City of Portland, under its charter, has the power to regulate its police force, while the proposed Irish Parliament has not even that power.

Fellow citizens, to freedom born, imagine, if you can, a nation denied the power to levy and collect its own taxes and duties on imports; denied the right to engage in commerce or undertake public improvements or regulate its own police force and militia for a period of years, and say whether any bill of rights devoid of the above essential elements of a free government is conceivable as a great charter of liberty. It may measure up to Mr. Murphy's conception of liberty and satisfy the aspirations of a hand-picked delegation assembled in Dublin City, but it will never satisfy the Irish people.

If England was sincere in her desire to placate the Irish people and right the wrongs of centuries, why did she not give them a charter of liberty in fact as well as in name? Canada, Australia and South Africa are practically independent, while Ireland has been given a home rule bill which is more appropriate for a village than for the government of a nation. The Irish people have paid too big a price for real liberty to be satisfied with a counterfeit. They have no grievance against their English or Scotch brethren, but they will insist on fair treatment which is not now accorded them. Ireland belongs to Irishmen and not to foreigners, and her own people, men and women with red blood in their veins, not politicians, have the right to determine how she should be governed. If she had a Henry Grattan today for only a brief period Ireland's nationhood would be established and Emmet's epitaph written. If Mr. Murphy does not subscribe to these sentiments he is not familiar with American ideals of government, neither is he familiar with the ideals of Irishmen the world over for the old land.

For Mr. Murphy personally the writer has a high regard, and has long admired his comprehensive and judicious observations, but now that he has been accused of lip loyalty by his fellow Briton, Mr. Courtney, my admiration is mingled with commiseration, for I believe that Mr. Murphy is a loyal Briton and is doing all in his power to manufacture sympathy for his King. And I would not endeavor to swerve Mr. Murphy one iota from his loyalty to England, but I merely wish to point out some of the shortcomings of the home rule bill, and the duty of Irishmen in Ireland in this crisis is to be true to Ireland first, as it is the duty of every American citizen in these crucial times to be loyal in spirit, act and deed to this great Nation, where every man is a freeman.

EDWARD RYAN.

OREGONIAN'S VIEW COMMENDED

Irish Situation in Present War Judged Accurately, Writes One.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Your editorial on the Irish situation is good. You have, I think, an absolutely accurate size-up of the situation. No doubt there are many Irish and Irish-Americans who harbor the old grudge against England, but I have talked with many young men, well educated, who have come from Ireland in the last five or ten years and they all seem to appreciate that conditions are being gradually mended by the liberal Parliament of the British Isles.

Among the Irish who have lived here 30 to 50 years the old wrongs, which all Americans who visited long enough in Ireland to become familiar with conditions admitted existed, still rankle. Separatists or Clan-na-gaels have never accomplished one thing. Gladstone, Parnell, John Redmond have won for Ireland what she now has and she has the right to purchase and own lands torn from the grasping landlords and has the money advanced to purchase these lands by the English government.

It sounds real nice and no doubt the followers of Bathhouse John and other good clansmen think they are saying something real smart to take flings at Redmond, O'Conner and others, but I believe the Irishman who has the good of his own country at heart and also his sympathies directed right will either be with the Allies heart and soul or keep from in any way injuring their cause. The "Irishman" who asked "What has Belgium ever done for Ireland" is not much of an Irishman or he would know something of Irish history. Belgium threw wide open the doors of at one time the greatest Catholic seat of learning in the world, Louvain, to the Irish students denied a higher education by British tyranny and at one time we are told there were 400 enrolled free. Belgium, like Ireland, is a strongly Catholic nation. However, to the big-talk man that is to be passed over, forget what has been done for us, remember our grudges.

As an Irish-American I find my sympathy strongly drawn towards the nation that several times endeavored to aid Ireland and did aid the 13 colonies in such a manner as to insure their independence and enable them to furnish an asylum to my ancestors; and as the son of a Civil War veteran I can also feel kindly towards Russia with all her faults, for she certainly gave us strong moral aid in our hour of need. In conclusion, I will pay tribute to the good qualities of the Germans; they are good neighbors and friends, but I would ask the Clan-na-gael detractors of Redmond and O'Conner "What has Germany ever done for Ireland."

AN IRISH-AMERICAN.

LEGISLATORS PATTED ON BACK

Governor, Leaders and Others Commended by Plainview, Or., Reader.

PLAINVIEW, Or., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—A few days ago we noticed an article from a teacher congratulating the Legislature on passing their bill favorably.

Now I want to say there is another "bunch," and we are not teachers, at least not all of us, who feel very grateful to our legislators for the way they passed the prohibition bill, and they not only have our thanks, but our hearty approval is extended to the remarks of Governor Withycombe on signing the bill. I would not only like to shake hands with him and President Thompson and Speaker Selling, but I would like to pat them all on the back and say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

ONE OF THE BUNCH.

Getting a Patent.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I have in mind an invention of a useful household article, composed of tin and wire. Will you please, through your columns, tell how to get the model made up and how to get a patent on it? Thanking you for any favor.

IDA ALLEN.

Apply to your postmaster for copy of patent and copyright pamphlet issued by Government, giving necessary instructions in procedure. Have your model and plans made by a competent workman and draughtsman. You also have the alternative of putting the invention in the hands of a patent attorney.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, February 22, 1865.

A number of men in the employ of the Santiam Company have left for the mountains, and it is reported Spring operations will be opened up in that section in earnest in a very short time.

Lewiston.—Judge Woodson, who several months ago was appointed Chief Justice of Idaho Territory and who never has set foot upon our soil, has resigned.

New York.—It is reported in dispatches received here that General Hindman, of Arkansas, has gone to Mexico, expecting to obtain a command in Maximilian's army, having lost faith in Jeff Davis' Confederacy. It is reported also that several other rebel officers have lately arrived at Matamoras with like intent.

Chicago, Feb. 22, 11 A. M.—Charleston and all its defenses, with 200 cannon, supplies and ammunition came into the possession of the Union forces on the morning of February 18. All the cotton was destroyed by the rebels before they evacuated. The evacuation really began February 14, it is recorded. Augusta and Columbia are probably taken and Mobile is reported evacuated.

Jacob Cohn, of Portland, and Emily Bruckman, of New York, were married in San Francisco by Rev. Dr. Cohn, February 22.

Ernest F. Lange, of Polk County, and Lenoir Ady, of Marion County, were married at Vancouver, Wash., yesterday, Justice J. F. Smith officiating.

Washington.—Most of the Northern States have ratified the amendment to the constitution abolishing slavery, only Delaware deciding against it.

The President yesterday nominated Senator E. D. Morgan, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. DeWitt Smith lately arrived from Washington en route to Idaho to take charge of the affairs of Idaho and left yesterday morning by the Steamer Wilson G. Hunt. He has been appointed by President Lincoln as Secretary of the Territory and brings with him sufficient funds to pay off the indebtedness and set in motion the wheels of government.

A friend in Portland has received a letter from L. B. Vickers, dated December 4, at New York, where he expected to remain until Spring. So there is considerable doubt whether the wandering "Angel of the Lord and Temporal King Upon Earth" was killed by the Indians on the overland trip, as reported in the California papers.

The anniversary of George Washington's birth was celebrated in this city by the firing of salutes, etc., together with a general rejoicing over the good news received by telegraph of the victories for the Union forces. As the salute was being fired by Captain Joyce, of the company of artillery, ex-Sheriff Pinkham, of Boise County, called upon the gunner and had a Federal salute fired for Idaho, paying for the expenses of the same himself. Wasserman & Company, as is their custom on occasions of this kind, added to the observance by sending up a balloon, which floated away to the southeast until lost in the distance.

COLLECTION AGENTS ARE SCORED

Lawyer Says "Scoundrels" Disgrace Calling and Cites Sad Case.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—A poor woman with four little children dependent upon her and who is working in one of Portland's department stores for wages less than enough to support her family has been sued by a firm of collection lawyers for a wood bill of $6, and her entire week's wages are now tied up. When she came to me for advice I investigated and found that the bill was not only an unjust one, but that this agency had piled up additional costs amounting to $8.75, and when I told them of the suffering and pain they were causing they still refused to release one dollar of the money. Meanwhile there is a family in Portland tonight in the clutches of poverty and want. Just one or two dollars of that money would make a great change in the atmosphere of that home.

I am frequently called upon to lend my aid and professional services in such cases, and always respond gladly and without charge, as many other attorneys also do. But while we do this there is a bunch of scoundrels whose very existence is an insult to the legal profession, who impose upon us this burden of free service, and upon society the burden of alms giving, in order that those scoundrels may live.

As a lawyer I know that the spirit of law and justice would not tolerate such procedure, and even if it be within the letter of the law, the lawyer who practices it is worse than a disgrace to his country. We need a procedure that will not penalize the poor debtor, and a procedure that will penalize the inhuman collection shark.

JESSE L. SUMRALL.

Letter Is Held Anagogic.

OREGON CITY, Or., Feb. 21.—(To the Editor.)—The letter of P. J. Smith is anagogic as a reply to Mr. Shanahan. It would be trying the public patience too much to try and ask the evidently permanent blind to see. This is a type of Irishman (?) that was always to be "a thorn in the side of Israel," Phonecian (Fenian). However, I think in justice to the cause he espouses the gentleman should sign himself P. J. Smidt and his motto should be "Deutschland neber alles." He should also read the letter of T. P. O'Conner, one of the first and foremost of Irish Home Rulers.

C. S. NOBLE.

Abert Lake Is Correct.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I see by the papers lately that there has been a company organized to take hold of some lakes in Southern Oregon called Summer and Abert Lakes. By all the maps I have found this "Abert" Lake is spelled "Albert." Will you kindly say which is the right name and oblige an old subscriber and resident of Oregon.

GEORGE A. DYSON.

The newer and better class maps will show the name spelled Abert, correctly.

You Are Entitled To What You Want

When you read an advertisement in this newspaper it sometimes creates in your mind a desire.

Something described seems to fit your individual needs and you want that article.

When you go to a store and ask for it by name you are entitled to get it—without quibble or question.

If the dealer tries to persuade you to take something else, he is doing so because it means greater profit to him.

You will probably not get as good an article for your money and the manufacturer whose advertisement attracted you loses a sale to which he was honorably entitled.

There is only one safe rule to follow.

Shun the dealer who habitually substitutes.

GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR.