

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1915.

OREGON'S CALL TO THE WEST.

Oregon has taken the lead in a movement to set forth and maintain the position of the Western states on the best policy for applying the principle of conservation in development of water-power within their borders. This state has invited ten other Western states to send representatives to a conference which shall devise means for securing adoption of the principles set forth in the resolution adopted by the Oregon Legislature.

Finally the Oregon declaration is a direct challenge to those who have contended that the Western states are so improvident with their resources that they would not care to pray to monopoly and that the Nation alone is capable of so controlling the water-power business as to ward off these evils. The Western states invite comparison between their efficiency and that of the Government in controlling public utilities. They contend that the water-power can be better administered on the ground in conformity with state needs and conditions than at a distance of 3000 miles by an unwieldy, slow-moving machine, the directors of which are ignorant of and indifferent to state needs and conditions. They will be a more inviting field to investors when conducted under state law than when subject to the varying opinions of a succession of Secretaries of the Interior, who change every four years.

The Oregon invitation to a conference on water-power legislation is an invitation to the other ten states to unite with Oregon in a declaration that they need no guardian, that they can walk alone and ask no outside power to take them by the hand and lead them. Now is the time for the Oregon conservationists to stand up for an alternative. No action by Congress is likely before next winter, and ample time will intervene for the West to lay its case before the country.

FOLLOW TAFT'S ADVICE.

No more lofty spirit of patriotism has been displayed in late years than that which inspired ex-President Taft's speech on the duty of the American people during the present war. Setting above everything the interests of the United States, he forgot all party differences in calling upon all citizens to uphold President Wilson's efforts to preserve our neutrality while upholding our rights. The Taft conservationists has at last taken concrete form and the West should offer an alternative. No action by Congress is likely before next winter, and ample time will intervene for the West to lay its case before the country.

THE REVOLT OF THE PROFESSORS.

An Eastern contemporary, which stands emphatically for culture, is deeply exercised over the great turning-point in the history of the practical affairs of the nation. Their defection from books to agriculture is particularly disturbing. The ideal college professor is a person who knows nothing about anything in the world but books. In the printed page he lives and moves and has what little being he is allowed to possess. His place is in the library, and he is to be gathered there and crack jokes while he feebly discourses on some erudite subject of no interest to himself or anybody else. His demeanor is supposed to be meek, his voice placatory, his eyes weak enough to overlook all most anything in the way of ridicule from his promising charges.

The rebellion of the professors against these old-time and highly respectable traditions is nothing less than terrifying, all the more so because it is widespread. It began, no doubt, with the disruption of the service group into the field of electrical engineering. Millionaires engaged in the exploitation of water-powers suddenly discovered that professors like Rowland and Duncan, and students like Steinmetz, who knew all about electricity, could be of immense use to them. So they lured the learned recluses out of their monkish cells by the offer of vast salaries with which the universities found it difficult to compete.

done" propose that the states yield rather than prolong the present situation, urging that more is to be gained by hastened development than by insistence on the state's rights. It is impossible for the states to surrender their jurisdiction, even if it were admissible, unless the Federal constitution and, perhaps, the state constitutions were amended. The limits of their jurisdiction are fixed by law and by the constitution as judicially construed, and can be changed in no other way.

Even were it possible, it is not advisable for the states to surrender their jurisdiction in order to make the Ferris bill operative. They have already fixed the order of preference in which water-rights may be acquired, usually domestic use first, irrigation second, power third. The Ferris bill places power first and might prevent necessary use for domestic purposes and for irrigation. That bill provides for equal division of rentals between state and National, though the National's interest is on a par with the state's. That revenue is not contending for, as most of the states already have laws governing power development and have efficient machinery for regulation of public utilities, and there is no cause for the Government to step in for protection of the people against imposition, even if it had the power. If any states have no regulative authority, the Government can refuse to grant land for power purposes until such an authority is created, though it is no part of the Nation's duty to protect a state's citizens from its neglect to perform such functions.

Every contractor who does work of any kind for the city must pay a scale far higher than the prevailing wage. Obviously the cost will be more, and obviously, too, it will in some cases be prohibitive. In all cases the city will be at greater expense in carrying out a given work than any private contractor. The reason for this is the new policy is that the laborer is entitled to a living wage. That may be agreed. But it is questionable if he is entitled to more for the same work than a fellow workman in private employment gets. If it be then said that the private employer must pay more, too, it may well be asked how he is going to pay it in the present situation? How is the city itself to stand the greater burden? A condition, and not a theory, confronts the people of Portland.

It seems to The Oregonian that the real problem is how to employ many unemployed men at a wage it is possible to pay, rather than a few men at double the wage other men are glad to get in these times. Not long since delegations from various civic bodies waited upon the City Commission with the request for the employment of the largest possible number of men on public works. No doubt the members of the Commission were as well aware of the industrial crisis as any citizen or group of citizens, and no doubt they keenly appreciated the need of doing every practical thing to relieve the situation. Yet it would appear that the real duty of the Commission lies in that direction, rather than in an effort to keep at a high standard the pay of the men now at work, and to raise the barriers in front of contractors, who are struggling to keep together in the present emergency, by paying what they can and doing what there is to do.

DEAR WHEAT.

The quantity of wheat in the United States available for export this winter was 357,000,000 bushels. This the Agricultural Department ascertained by a simple calculation. The entire crop was 967,000,000 bushels, of which 610,000,000 were needed at home. The remainder, 357,000,000 bushels, is to be shipped to Europe without disturbing domestic conditions.

THE FALL OF CHARLESTON.

The first notable consequence of Sherman's northward march from Savannah was the fall of Charleston. This seaport had been besieged by the Union fleet for six months, with but such much hope of success. Fort Wagner, in the harbor, had been taken, but Fort Sumpter remained apparently impregnable. The fire of the fleet had reduced it to a heap of ruins, but the Confederate garrison managed to find shelter among them and held their guns as well as when the fort was intact, or even better, perhaps. No vessel could pass Fort Sumpter to land troops on the water-front, so that, although much damage had been done in the city by shells from the fleet, it could not be taken.

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to be burning the midnight oil in stuffy cells with biary eyes and pallid cheeks but who, instead of that, are charged with the duty of telling the farmers how to plant corn, spray trees and breed hogs. What a falling off from the sacred academic ideal!

A professor who is good for something else than delivering antiquated lectures to inattentive students is likely to be done to woe him back to the gods he has forsaken. Who will go through the sacred motions of teaching Greek and Latin if all the professors take to engineering, agriculture and sociology?

EIGHT HOURS AND \$3 DAILY.

The City Commission will act today upon the plan of eight hours, skilled and unskilled, engaged in contract work of any kind for the municipality. The daily wage is to be not less than \$3, and the hours are to be not more than eight. Preference is to be given to local labor.

No proposal of greater consequence to the taxpayers and to the general public has been formulated or considered by the Commission. It requires only a statement of its scope and purpose to give the measure of its large importance.

Some students are blaming the Russian novelists for the European war. Since most of the accused are dead and unable to answer back, it is a happy thought to lead them by the burden everybody else shirks. The argument for the prosecution runs that the Russian novels have been imitated by the English. Thus an entente was established which started Germany on a war of conquest and thus brought on the fighting.

The revolt of the Plute Indians should give new life to the expiring taste for scout and cowboy stories. It may even revive the dime novel of 50 years ago which reeked with gory and bloody mid-night massacres. With all its bloodthirstiness the boys' fiction of that day was superior to much of the simpering stuff that has replaced it.

Organized charity has long supervised the poor. Now the State of New York is about to supervise organized charity, probably for good reasons. The Rockefeller charities investigate labor and the Federal Labor Commission investigates the charities. The men and things who are not under suspicion in these times are few and lucky.

Captain Mitchell of the General Staff, who said a foe could take and hold the American seaboard, has been excused by the Secretary of War, as he talked in a private meeting. He told a truth, to be sure, but neglected to add the foe aforesaid would be making attempt to commit suicide and would succeed.

Raids by Zeppelins on armed camps and concentrations of troops are legitimate part of war, but dropping bombs on cities and killing non-combatants are not, and if there is any power that can advise the Kaiser to this effect the word should not be slow in going.

Constantinople is the end of all Russian ambition and now comes she is preparing to capture it. Sometimes it seems as if Russian intrigue were responsible for the turmoil in Europe, with this result in view.

Even the county prisoners at Eugene would radiate, but a hard-hearted jailer discovered the effort in time to prevent get-away.

With a new dam at the headworks at Bull Run to impound 500,000,000 gallons, Portland is preparing to get along during a dry spell.

With Federal intervention the Plute uprising will be quelled and the redskin learn another lesson in the white man's "bunk."

The German gained ten feet on the line near the other day. Jean Cocteau must have been dreaming of "dear Paree."

Rockefeller gave away more than six million dollars last year, a sum much greater than most men make in a lifetime.

Heavy war insurance on United States property is being placed in London. Quit it. Such reports make us nervous.

When the Johnson-Willard bout is held in Mexico, Villa should be on hand to garner the box office receipts.

in both cities. On forsaking Columbia they set fire to the stores of cotton, from which the flames spread throughout the city. Perhaps other factors contributed to the disaster. With Sherman were some Union prisoners whom he had released from the horrible Confederate dens where they had been confined. Naturally, these suffered, and we may at least feel assured that they did not labor feverishly to check the flames. Whether they actually took a hand in spreading them is, of course, a matter of pure conjecture.

Germany denies that British prisoners are being treated cruelly and the world will believe her. To be sure, the food may not be what they would get at home, and they miss the morning "bawh," but the German subsistence department is not in the hotel or restaurant business. People disposed to complain might, with advantage, lead off the treatment given prisoners at Andersonville half a century ago by the Confederate government, an institution that had the profound sympathy and more or less moral and substantial support of the British people.

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Whatever is handed to the Russian by the Teuton he passes on in diminished volume to the Turk.

Scandinavian governments will not join us in our protest against Germany. They're taking no chances.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, February 24, 1865. Ex-Senator Toombs, of Georgia, is on the staff of General Gustav W. Smith, ex-Street Commissioner of New York. He is now a person of no consequence.

Washington—Information from the Army of the Potomac as late as yesterday morning reports all quiet. About 3000 of the rebel ranks have come within the Army of the Potomac within the last few days.

The Albany Journal says an effort is being made to complete the work on the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain wagon road, and a public meeting was held recently to urge the matter.

If there is any one fact more than another that is worthy of congratulation in connection with the successes achieved by General Sherman, it is that the National flag once more floats over Fort Sumter and that the treatment given prisoners at Andersonville half a century ago by the Confederate government, an institution that had the profound sympathy and more or less moral and substantial support of the British people.

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FREE IRELAND IS PRIME WISH

Edward Ryan Answers Mr. Shanahan and Perhaps He Pokes Fun. PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I respectfully ask The Oregonian to publish the following letter in reply to L. Shanahan: Mr. Shanahan has again erupted and, having no arguments to offer, he resorts to abuse. He says he is a national executive of the U. I. L. His language would indicate that he has some office in the I. W. W., and it may be that the U. I. L. and the I. W. W. are one and the same or kindred organizations. However, in reply to this emissary of the only foreign political organization known to the writer as an American Irishman, I wish to say that I am a free Irishman, and that I am not a member of the U. I. L. that there is no treaty of peace between England and Ireland, for the home rule bill of 1914 is still in the hands of the House of Commons, and that is the ultimate and final achievement of Messrs. John Redmond and T. P. O'Connor.

For this indefinitely postponed home rule bill Messrs. Redmond, Shanahan and Hennessy Murphy would have all the Irish youth shoulder their muskets and, with drums beating, march on Berlin. If Messrs. Hennessy Murphy, Shanahan and Redmond wish to advance on the Germans in consideration of this great charter of liberty, which is only a farce, let them send red coats and Lee-Netford rifles and advance themselves. There shall be no obstacle placed in their way. I prefer to remain a neutral Oregonian while these proud heroes and warriors of King George rush to annihilate the Kaiser and his triumphant hosts. Such a merry array, with Hennessy Murphy at the head, would undoubtedly strike terror to the Germans and even cause the gates of Heidelberg, Coburg, Pilsen and Muenchen to be closed.

Unquestionably the march of invaders into Ireland, and the peace which would be entered into, participated in by the U. I. L. and its executors, and thereafter the great charter of liberty, excluding the U. I. L. would come into effect. When that happy day arrives and the lion and the lamb lie down together, our good friends, Murphy and Shanahan, with a keen vision of future events, saw the great charter put into effect. Until that happy consummation, however, the peace which would be entered into in England is not so great, and will hope for a victorious Germany and a free Ireland. EDWARD RYAN.

H. W. Longfellow, of Cambridge, Mass., has returned his income as \$14,171 and paid the tax upon it. Poetry is no longer synonymous with poverty.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Willamette University, February 16, a medical department was organized to be located in Portland and to be called the Willamette Medical College. The faculty which was appointed at that time met Wednesday evening and elected the following officers: A. C. Gibbs, president; R. E. Wilson, vice-president; A. M. Loryea, dean; and R. Gilman, treasurer.

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Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian February 24, 1890. London—Inquiries at the United States Legation last night at 10 o'clock brought the information that there was no change in the condition of Mr. Lincoln's son, Abraham, who still continues in a very dangerous state of health.

Washington—The indications are that Chicago will be awarded the World's Fair, New York is the second choice and St. Louis and Washington following.

New York—Dom Pedro, the deposed Emperor of Brazil, is willing to renounce all claims to his title and, if allowed, return to his country as a private citizen and give all aid possible in establishing the republic. It is reported from contents of a letter from Paris, received by Charles Flint.

John Luce, of the John Day Valley, reports that one of his bands of 2400 sheep he had lost 2800 thus far this winter. His neighbor, Mr. Brown, has lost some 5000.

According to the Salem Statesman, there are those who have seen smoke issuing from that peaceful and hoary old sentinel of the Cascades, Mount Jefferson. There was a volcanic eruption in Japan a few days ago, and Salem is not to be behind the times.

The work of soliciting subscriptions for a Chamber of Commerce building will go ahead this morning according to President Mackay, of the Board of Education, who has appointed a committee to undertake the work.

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., has completed a careful resume of conditions and prospects of the Fourth of July, in which so much Portland capital is interested. Several mining experts have spoken in glowing terms of the prospects of the mine.

Richard Koehler has been appointed manager of the Portland & Willamette Valley Railroad Company, according to William Reid, vice-president of the company.

T. W. Bleick, the present school clerk of Albina, is a candidate for re-election Monday, March 10.

Jay Gould is reported to have been taken in to the extent of \$25,000 in a recent deal in Richmond Terminal.

The pianist, von Bulow (the first husband of Frau Conrad) is in consequence of disagreement with the royal supervisor of the Berlin Theater, has resigned all his offices at court. Now his visiting cards bear the inscription: "Dr. Hans v. Bulow, orchestra leader and pianist in ordinary, to His Majesty, the German Emperor."

San Francisco—A phonograph record has been made of Patti's voice.

One of the cars on the cable road ran away down the Fifteenth street grade last night shortly after 8 o'clock. At the corner of Fifth it flew the track and landed bottom side up along the street. Fortunately there were only three passengers aboard none of whom was fatally hurt. Dr. W. H. Jones and Mrs. James and H. A. Child are the persons who took the fearful ride. Mrs. James escaped unhurt but Mr. James and Mr. Child each received scalp wounds and bruises.

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ENGLAND'S REDRESS ACCEPTABLE.

J. T. D. Says Let BYRONES BE BYGONES in Irish-English. PORTLAND, Feb. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I wonder if Mr. J. B. Courtney speaks for the rest of the "loyal Britons" when he says that they view with favor and with expressions of loyalty coming from Messrs. Murphy, Shanahan and others.

Being one of the "others," I will endeavor to answer Mr. Courtney's question, "What is the meaning of it all?" as far as I can personally do so. I do not pretend to speak for any of my fellow-subjects, but I have been a member of the British Benevolent Society for many years and generally "come across" as they say, in connection with the British National Red Cross fund. I have never felt that I owed any Englishman an apology because I am an Irishman and have on more than one occasion, in your paper, called attention to the shortcomings of England toward Ireland.

I never felt that I owed any British functionary I thought I would be treated with either suspicion or intolerance, and that there is danger of an Irishman being treated at a typical Irishman's gathering is amply proved by the tone of Mr. Courtney's letter.

But to answer his question, "I am an Irishman and have how ever tried to do so," I can only say that I have known other know that England has wronged Ireland in the past, but when England commences to make amends, I am willing to accept an apology because in the present crisis, where the issue is plainly marked between England and Germany, I am with England heart and soul. I have even written in your paper, and I may say in conclusion that I am not in the least concerned whether certain Englishmen view my expression of sympathy for Ireland with favor or not.

J. T. D.

THE DANCE OF THE SOUL.

(In appreciation of Ruth S. Denis.) Goddess of motion, Come, dance with my soul, In the love of life— Dance of the world as a whole.

The dance must have fire, The dance must have life— Dance to the vibrating of the soul.

Spirits of flowers, Movements of sound— The dance of the mountain top, And dance again down.

The dance of the arms, The dance of each limb, The dance of the babies, the mothers— The dance without sin.

The dance of the snowflake, The dance of the rain, The dance of the growing soul— The dance above shame.

The dance of the ocean, The dance of the waves, The dance of the lightning and clouds— The dance of the sunbeams, The dance of the rainbows, The dance for only the brave.

The dance of today, The dance of tomorrow, The dance of years gone by— The dance of the ever-now.

Revolution Stages.

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Why are not newly-built theaters—Nations, that, the revolving stages during these modern times? A SUBSCRIBER.