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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1915.

IN A PIT OF THEIR OWN DIGGING.

Necessity compels the Democrats to consider another revision of the tariff before the next Presidential election. They must have money to run the Government, and the Underwood tariff, though passed professedly to raise revenue and for no other purpose, falls far short of bringing in enough. Hence Democratic newspapers report that the Administration is considering a "correction" of certain schedules and that sugar will not go on the free list next year, as provided by the Underwood law.

Many Democratic statesmen are inclined to retain the sugar tariff, not only because the resulting revenue is sadly needed by the Treasury, but because the votes of Louisiana sugar-planters and Western beet-growers and sugar-refiners are badly needed by their party. The difficulty is that no movement can be made to change one rate or schedule of the tariff without opening the way to general revision. The Underwood law was passed by a minority party, which owed its accession to power to division in the majority. The majority is now united and has been joined by hosts of disgusted members of the minority. If a start were made at revision, changes in the direction of protection would be demanded by Democrats from the East as well as by those from the South and West. They might even combine with the Republicans to revise the tariff throughout on moderate protectionist lines against the protests of their horrified leaders.

Congress cannot reopen the tariff question without bringing into prominence the utter failure of the Underwood tariff to produce enough revenue, its disastrous effects on business and the unanimity of Republicans and Progressives in favor of protection. The opposition would thus be solidified and strengthened, while the Democracy would be presented as false to its principles and as adopting those principles which it has always vehemently condemned. Its only possible excuse will be that the war has created the necessity for more revenue. That will be the Republicans' opportunity to prove that Democratic extravagance is to blame. They will have abundant evidence to support their contention.

THE LATEST RATE DECISION.

By the latest decision on Pacific Coast and intermountain rates the Interstate Commerce Commission has only floundered deeper in the mire it had entered by departing from the sound principles governing competition between rail and water carriers. This decision seems to be an effort to return to the safe rule that rail rates from the East to interior points should approximate the water rate to the Pacific Coast terminals plus the rail rate from those terminals to the interior destination, but that which the commission gives with one hand it takes back with the other.

The new decision further modifies that by which the commission divided the country into zones from which the rates to intermountain points were permitted to exceed the rate to Pacific Coast terminals by certain percentages. We will take the Chicago zone for the purpose of illustration. The percentage in that case was 7 per cent. Assuming the terminal rate to be $1, the interior rate might be $1.07 and might be scaled up in that ratio all along the line. In order further to help the railroads and the interior towns, the commission abandoned the percentage rule and permitted a fixed addition of 15 cents to the terminal rate in arriving at the rate to interior points. Where the distance rate was less than $1.15, this lesser rate must apply. Under this arrangement the interior rate was higher than the terminal rate no farther east than Biggs or that vicinity. Points east of that town would have lower rates than would Coast terminals and would enjoy the advantage of water competition without being on the water. The new decision professes to give coast terminals the advantage of water competition by permitting rates to interior points to exceed rates to the coast by the addition of 75 per cent of the backhaul rate, but this rule is subject to the former rule that only 15 cents may be added to the coast rate in order to arrive at the interior rate. The latter rate would in few cases be actually higher than the terminal rate.

The commission admits that water competition should fix the rate to the interior, yet in the next breath it retracts the admission. It permits the railroads to create a little traffic preserve around Spokane and other intermountain towns, though in so doing it discriminates not only against the coast cities, but against Idaho and Montana cities and deranges the entire system of rates to Salt Lake, which it has already adopted as reasonable. The reason is apparent. When the commission adopted the zone system and created the Spokane preserve it departed from the sound and just principle of ratemaking. Its several modifications of the original intermountain rate decision have been simply attempts to escape the logical consequences of its original error without admitting that it erred. Now that the Panama Canal has intensified water competition and has made it a real danger to the railroads in transcontinental business, the commission again affirms the principle but lacks the will or the courage to rescind its former action and take that principle as a guide and thereby admit its error.

Fortunately for Portland, the remedy is in its own hands. That is, without paying any attention to the commission and its flounderings, to develop to the fullest extent the water route to the interior. With modern tugs, towing strings of barges; with modern wharves equipped with machinery for quick and economical loading and discharge of freight; with paved streets, over which produce can be hauled by auto trucks to the wharves, the Columbia River can carry traffic at rates which railroads cannot touch. The Columbia basin thus has the greatest incentive to cease appealing to this vacillating Jove at Washington and to put its own shoulder to the wheel.

TRAIL OF THE COPPERHEAD.

The cold tremor that seized the Portland Journal after the Lusitania incident so paralyzed its vocal faculties that it was not able to say anything in the way of condemnation of cold-blooded savagery except a few blubbering generalities about the horrors of war, all because it feared it might lose a few subscribers of pro-German sympathies. The lamentable example of its Portland patron has as usual been emulated by the cuckoo Pendleton paper, the East Oregonian. That delectable sheet has managed to find excuses for the atrocious policy which plans and accomplishes the death of neutral Americans, traveling on the seas in pursuit of their own business, by emphasizing the merit of the German contention that they had been "warned" to keep off a British ship carrying munitions of war.

The Pendleton paper, in the excess of its anti-American zeal, also assumes responsibility for the following:

> The statement by the chief officer of the Gulflight indicates that the American tanker was torpedoed by a British submarine, not by a German. It is now up to our military enthusiasts to insist we fight England, if they wish to be consistent.
>
> If it was an act of piracy for a German submarine to torpedo an English ship why is it not piratical for an English submarine to torpedo an American boat?

The President of the United States, in his great note to Germany on the Lusitania tragedy, makes the deliberate charge that the Gulflight was sunk by a German torpedo. All the facts sustain his statement, which has been denied nowhere but in Pendleton. Does the President tell the truth? Or the Pendleton fabricator?

Some day there will be a new kind of round-up in Pendleton—a copperhead round-up.

DON'T WORRY.

The proposal of sundry gentlemen from Albina for a new charter to be voted on in June appears to have created a degree of excitement at the City Hall not wholly justified by the circumstances. One Commissioner is reported to have said that he would not vote to place the measure on the ballot, "not even if 95 per cent of the people petitioned for it."

Tut, tut. Is it possible that the people are not to have what they want under a system expressly devised to give them what they want? Open defiance of the populace was a favorite practice of the old days, when they were not supposed to know what they wanted.

But now when the eye of every man-jack in the City Hall is cast in the direction of the weathervane, handily placed where everybody can see it, it is little less than treason to stand in with the five per cent against the ninety-five.

The City Attorney has also been investigating that new charter, and it is full of jokers, he says. Being convinced that it is not a good thing for the people to have, he, too, is helping along the plan—we will not call it by so harsh a term as conspiracy—not to let them have it. It looks bad for the biennial change in city charters.

The Albina idea is to have the city divided once more into wards—eleven in all—and to have a commission, or council, of eleven. The principle of local representation will thus be restored. Albina, we believe, has no member of the present commission.

The Oregonian is not sure that its opinion is highly valued at the City Hall, but it will nevertheless venture to suggest to the City Commission that there is no need to worry about that charter. If it went on the ballot it would doubtless be voted down, and the day would be saved for every last official incumbent of the present administration.

LAST RESERVES CALLED OUT.

The emergence of General Innuendo, General Abuse and General Suspicion from their newspaper headquarters to take up the fight of the meterites is not surprising. They are the last reserves and certainly the case that has been made against meters demands their attention.

The following proclamation from these warriors comes from the chief admirer in Portland of their distinguished ability:

> Nothing but a special inside graft can account for the violence of the opposition to meters. Somewhere and in some way there are big water users who have the best of the water arrangement and are secretly fighting to hold their cinch on the small consumer.

Similar suspicions could be directed against the chief advocates of meters with just as good ground—which means none at all. There came to The Oregonian today a letter from a woman who thinks she smells graft in the proposed water meter purchase and who names those she suspects to be the beneficiaries. Similar letters were offered and declined when the issue was first raised.

There is enough to be said on the meter question without wantonly impugning motives, and it is just as well for correspondents to know that The Oregonian will keep its columns clean in this particular, regardless of what any other newspaper of less self-respect may do. But if anybody has proof of conspiracy or graft on either side in the controversy The Oregonian will be glad to receive it and give it publicity.

PROGRESS OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

It appears that woman suffrage is establishing enviably harmonious relations with the various religious potentates in the Eastern part of the United States. The Society of Friends endorsed the movement at Philadelphia last March. The New Jersey conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church has also countenanced the cause and promised "hearty and active support to the suffragists." This, we may say in passing, is characteristic of the Methodist church. It is always one of the first to take up reforms and the very last to drop them.

In harmony with its suffrage views the New Jersey Conference has asked the Legislature to pass a local option bill. For some esoteric reason suffrage and rum seldom seem to thrive together. More significant still is the action of the East New York Conference, which has approved woman suffrage by a formal resolution. Naturally the opponents of votes for women are much disturbed by this phenomenon. They feel with good reason that when the churches take up the cause its opponents might as well quit the field.

The various churches in New York and Brooklyn have been investigating the amount of suffrage sentiment among their members. In one church on Manhattan Island 80 per cent of the women communicants turned out to be suffragists. A Brooklyn church reports that 60 per cent of its women are of the same mind. This is ominous indeed for the antis, who have always felt that the suppression of women was in some way decreed by the Almighty. When the churches begin to teach that he favors the suffrage cause we can not imagine where they will look for encouragement.

The Christian Advocate of New York believes that votes for women are sure to come before a great while and it "congratulates the workers for suffrage on their recent alliance with moral and religious endeavors." The fact is that they have always been so allied, but it has taken papers like the Advocate a long time to find it out. The main point that is now made against suffrage is the slight effect women have had on politics in the states where they vote, but time will cure this trouble.

A MAKER OF TROUBLE.

The Oregon Herold, a Portland paper, printed in the German language, in its current issue has an article in English signed by "An American" displayed conspicuously on its first page and supported by other evidences of endorsement. A few specimen sentences are:

> The Lusitania was armed with powerful guns.
>
> The Americans (on the Lusitania) ridiculed, they laughed, they hooted at the German threat.
>
> The present policy of our Administration . . . is silly, impertinent, abusive and dangerous.
>
> The American Government sold millions of dum-dum bullets . . . to be used against Germany. Our Administration and other Anglo-maniacs had not a word of condemnation for such outrageous warfare.
>
> It is a known fact that there would be peace now in Europe had not America provided the allies with powder and shot.
>
> Never did hypocrisy and deception, intrigue and unfairness take firmer roots in an Administration than in Wilson and Bryan.
>
> The flag that is now unfurled on our Capitol is crimsoned with the German blood shed by our dum-dums and our bullets and our cannons and the flagpole is hypocrisy.

No single assertion of fact in the foregoing, so far as it concerns the American Government or the American people, can be substantiated. Not one.

The only purpose of The Oregonian in reproducing these startling and mischievous assaults on the President and the United States is to notify the readers of the Herold that they are entitled to the truth, and they are not getting it.

SAINT-SAENS.

The critics say of the venerable Camille Saint-Saens, now in the United States for the second time, that "he is the most accomplished musician since Johann Sebastian Bach." They mean that he is an incomparable expert in musical technic. Saint-Saens is famous for his compositions, but his professional brethren admire more his instrumental adeptness. Wagner called him "the best reader of scores he had ever seen." Before a page of music he is like Gilbert Murray before a chorus of Euripides. If it has any meaning he may be trusted to find it.

Score reading for an instrument is something to which ordinary people do not aspire. Their musical ambitions, if they have any, are limited to reading the notes of a song and even this modest accomplishment is seldom acquired. Music is taught nowadays in the public schools, but it is still rather rare to meet a person who can take up a new melody and sing the notes without the help of a piano. Why is music so much harder to learn than any of the other common bits of craft?

We are not convinced that it has any great inherent difficulty. Perhaps children do not begin to learn the art young enough. Perhaps there ought to be more of an effort to commit the absolute tones of the scale to memory. Perhaps the whole subject is surrounded with too much mystery and pedantry. There is a world of pleasure in music, but not one person in twenty has access to it.

THE ALLIES' OFFENSIVE IN THE WEST.

The latest successes claimed by the British in France are the result of operations designed to follow up the victory gained at Neuve Chapelle two months ago. At that time the objective was a ridge two miles east of Neuve Chapelle, extending from Aubers on the north to Illies on the south and continuing thence in a southwesterly direction west of La Bassee, held by the Germans, to Givenchy and Cuinchy. The British in March gained the Pretre mill and the Bois du Biez, east of Neuve Chapelle, but the confusion resulting from the speed of their success in the center and right and from the delay encountered on their left compelled them to take time to reopen their units for renewal of the assault. That delay enabled the Germans to rally and to bring up reinforcements for counter-attacks. These were thrown back, but the exhausted Britons were unable to renew the offensive and to take the ridge.

The British appear now to be straightening their lines by driving the Germans from Richebourg and Festubert, which lie a little west of south from Neuve Chapelle, about two miles apart. They are now near the base of the ridge north and west of La Bassee, which lies in a depression, and may next direct the attack on the ridge itself, with a view to capture of La Bassee. That town is an important strategic point. Here the highway between Armentieres on the north and Arras on the south crosses that between Bethune on the west and Lille on the east, the railroad between the two latter cities, also the canals of Aire and La Bassee. From the eastern face of this ridge the British would command the railroad junction of Don and would be within eight miles of Lille, the most important manufacturing city of Northeastern France.

The French advance north of Arras, which is about fifteen miles south of La Bassee, has the effect of weakening the German position between those two points. Were the Germans' line to be bulged back at these two points of attack, their forces north and south of Lens would be in danger of envelopment and would have to choose between a desperate fight to maintain their position and a withdrawal.

The Anglo-French offensive comes at a time when the Austro-German army seems to be having a respite in Galicia after driving the Russians from the Dunajec and the Carpathians to the San River. It may become so formidable as to cause a transfer of German troops from east to west; in fact that may be one purpose, in order to give the Russians an opportunity to recover from their recent reverse. The Anglo-French forces, continually drawing reinforcements across the channel, may play such a vigorous and continuous offensive as to prevent Germany from again transferring troops to the east. Confronted by the entire Austrian and a full half of the German army, Russia has hitherto borne more than her share of the allies' burden. It has been demonstrated that she cannot make progress unless more of the hostile forces are diverted to resist attack in other quarters.

To select a name for a marching club is a problem. The Eugene Radiators absorbed the best to indicate the booster spirit after the Rosarians got on the map, the Salem Cherrians took a name that stood for a delightful feature of the Capital City, anybody who sees the Pheasants on the march will instinctively think of Albany. Now Oregon City wants a name for its marchers, and, as the fields of flora, feather, fruit and general human endeavor have been picked for the best, the city by the falls would better drop into the aboriginal and call its show company the Skookum Klatawas. Then watch their steps.

There is some debate whether a "judicial interpretation" of the United States Constitution is an amendment or not. Elihu Root thinks it is. He said some years ago that the judges would amend the Constitution fast enough to keep up with the needs of the country. Other authorities insist that "interpretation" is not amendment, but merely the bringing out of something already there. With a good imagination to help one can find almost anything in the Constitution.

The reactionaries who propose a return to the ward plan of city government with a many-headed Council should remember that, if they had their way, we could not be sure who was trying to force the universal water meter system on us. Now we know it's Commissioner Daly. That is one decided advantage of commission government. We can point the finger at the man who does things and he cannot "pass the buck."

Roland G. Usher, whose prophecies in his "Pan-Germanism" came true for the most part, ventures some more in a new book, "Pan-Americanism." His main prediction is that the United States is destined to fight whatever powers are victorious in the big war. The consolation he offers is that we may possibly whip them—if we don't shirk the task of preparation.

The six Korean Christians who were convicted in 1913 of conspiring to kill the Japanese Governor of Korea have been pardoned. Investigation has shown that the plot they were tried for was wholly imaginary. They committed no crime and should not have been convicted. Their belated pardon partially cancels the injustice they have suffered.

We have never been able to understand why it is necessarily disgraceful for a college student to earn vacation money by playing baseball. The occupation is clean, wholesome and profitable. Others can follow it without odium. Why should it be forbidden to students? Does it injure their minds more than work in the harvest field or a sawmill?

If the English suffragist leaders had condemned disturbers as promptly as the National Woman Suffrage Association repudiated the women who tried to force their way into President Wilson's presence their cause would have made more progress.

While those submarines which were built on the Atlantic Coast for Britain are not to be delivered until after the war, we should not be surprised if they were to stray across the ocean while the fighting is still hot.

The tramway men of London exhibit a mighty poor quality of patriotism in going on strike during the Nation's trouble. A stiff dose of conscription is needed over there.

A German has discovered a method of making yeast without hops and that will dispense with 2 per cent of the crop, leaving the remainder useless when the world goes "dry."

Attention of people of the Middle West affiliated with heavy frosts is called to conditions here, where the good folk shiver in a temperature around the 50's.

The Fort Stevens soldiers may have acted with some irregularity in rushing the I. W. W. at Hammond, but they erred in a good cause.

An officer of the Humane Society says that if cats are well fed they will not eat mice. Well, well! To be sure! But for what are cats?

Even a wealthy man like Vanderbilt carried large insurance, while the man whose people would need it often carries little or none.

When the Germans defeat the Russians, the latter get even by whipping the Austrians, but that's nothing; anybody can do it.

The world awaits Germany's reply, and anything of that nature coming through France needs consideration before belief.

Longitudinal seats in street cars are designed to allow the young man to hitch up his trousers and display his socks.

Presidents rise, fall and are assassinated in Portugal with the same rapidity as in Mexico.

These are troublous times for an Englishman who has a German name and likes sauerkraut.

The Mayor to the Governor this noon: "Pass the beans, doctor, and don't spill 'em."

This war has changed the dove of peace into a more or less amphibious bird.

The evidence is all in in the Roosevelt libel suit and so must be the jurymen.

Kitchener needs 300,000 more, for he says he wants them, and he knows.

Germany will quit submarining when the war is over.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of May 19, 1890.

Thousands yesterday witnessed the shooting of the rapids by the "Harvest Queen." The perilous run in the Columbia River was made in just four minutes. Captain James W. Troup was in charge of the event. All river steamers available left Portland with decks crowded for the up-river event. The Oregonian published a detailed account of the trip with thumb nail sketches of the navigation feat. The drawings illustrating the event which were reproduced by The Oregonian this morning were made by Homer C. Davenport.

The Chicago waiters will no longer rely upon tips only for their earnings it is announced in Chicago where a strike is imminent.

A. H. Lutzens has been appointed postmaster at Collins (now Lutzens), Benton County, in the place of W. Harrison.

Washington — The Post yesterday morning said of the Washington Senator:

"Senator Squires' bill to provide for a monument of General Grant passed the Senate yesterday. It was amended to provide that the cost may be limited to $300,000, which amount is none too large to expend in erecting a fitting monument to Ulysses S. Grant. Senator Squires is to be commended for the part he has taken in the bill which provides for a too-long neglected recognition of the dead soldier and the House should lose no time in completing the good work."

New York—The Times says: "Jay Gould interested Wall street a couple of years ago by electing his son George head of the Pacific Mail Steamship company and then announcing that the part of the line would be as nothing compared to the future of the line under the tutelage of his son. Somehow the fortunes of the company failed to come, and the stock fell from $60 to $30. . . . Young George Gould now appears to them a slightly less important personage than when his father started him 24 months ago. It was not until yesterday, however, that the outsiders were able to discern that the anti-Gould contingent had backed up its talk with action and it is learned that George Gould is to be retired from the presidency and in his place C. P. Huntington is to be the company's controller, and Henry Villard is allied with him."

Huntington represents Central Pacific and Villard Northern Pacific, and harmony and achievement is expected from the union.

Geo. Francis Train, who left Tacoma not long ago on a record-breaking trip around the world, arrived in New York yesterday and in five days will be in Tacoma again. It is now practically certain he will have broken all existing records for circling the globe.

A good joke was played on George River, Republican candidate for coroner, yesterday, when in buying a bouquet from a newsboy he gave the lad a half dollar. The boy said he would scamper away and get change. Mr. River became tired of waiting and went into a store. When he came out he discovered in due time that the boy had left several bouquets at his place of business, making the "change" in flowers and not in money.

T. J. Gary has refused the nomination on the Union ticket for superintendent of schools and the central committee has named W. A. Wetzell instead.

AUTHORS PROVIDE COINCIDENCE

Two of Same Surname Publish Poetry Under Same Title.

NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, Ohio, May 13.—(To the Editor.)—A relative of mine, living in Portland, sends me a poem, by Ernest Everhart Baker, entitled "The Outcast." The subject is the social evil. It was sent in answer to request and for publication. I once wrote a poem entitled "The Outcast" and it is possible that the muse would say, were she consulted, that both poems were properly named.

My poem was a drunkard's soliloquy on re-entering the town in which he was born and reared. The measure was unusual and the poetic feet were iambic. I think it was in 1888 that I sent it to the New Era, a temperance paper published in Springfield, Ohio, and it was published therein. The editor sent me a friendly note and a huge pile of papers containing it. It made a column and a half of nonpareil. I will give you some extracts taken at random:

> His lofty form is bent with years, and he is very gray,
> As in his grief he totters forth, upon the beaten way.
> The laughing, bowling evil one, who haunts the drunkard's bowl,
> Had blighted all his youthful years, and quenched his brilliant soul.
>
> * * *
>
> What if the world a wondrous toy of the Creator be,
> Who smiles alike at human bliss and human agony?
> Avaunt! rebellious spirit, hush! With no excitement nigh,
> In yonder ancient church I felt the glory from on high.
> Oh! that the fiend who ruined me had form of flesh and blood;
> And all deformed, by sinful soul, within my presence stood;
> How I would curse him to his face, for all the evil wrought?
> And blast him with a single look! What folly guilt has brought!

I am a soldier of the Civil War, aged 73, and am a mission worker. Literary fame has few charms at my age. Life resembles a motion-picture show.

JOSEPH MARION BAKER.

A TOAST TO PORTLAND'S ROSE.

> Tell me not in song or story,
> And books of old romance,
> Of the shamrock green of Ireland,
> Nor the fleur-de-lis of France;
> Speak not to me of heather which
> On Scottish moorside blows,
> Don't prate of English violets—
> I "know" the Portland rose.
>
> Don't tell me of magnolias
> That bloom in sunny climes,
> Nor fragrant orange blossoms
> That speak of wedding chimes;
> Don't speak of dainty eidelweiss
> From Alpine's chilly snows;
> Don't mention Holland's tulip beds—
> I've seen the Portland rose.
>
> She blooms on Portland's highways;
> Our byways know her, too;
> She's in the yards and in the parks
> At every point of view.
> From lowly window boxes
> She nods in queenly grace;
> You meet her on our busy streets
> In every maiden's face.
>
> We crown her queen in June-time.
> We make a festal day,
> And then we show her at her best
> In glorious display.
> No tongue nor pen can give her due
> In poetry or prose;
> The whole world's come to know her—
> The beauteous Portland rose.

NELLIE A. WARNICK.

Portland, Or.

Descent of Property.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Is a brother entitled to a married sister's share of an estate if she dies without leaving a will? (2) Upon the death of said brother, have heirs any claim to said estate?

SUBSCRIBER.

(1) No. The property would go to her husband or children or to her father or mother, first.

(2) Your second question is not clear. Whose heirs?

HOW TO REDUCE LIFE'S PROBLEMS

Teach Psychology and Metaphysics in All Grades of School.

HILLSDALE, Or., May 17.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial you publish a little sermon on sermons, in which you say, in effect, "What people want is a sermon that shows sound thought, not metaphysical speculations." Also, "They want solid reflection on life's problems."

May I venture to suggest that what people want in a sermon is not so much solid reflection on life's problems as a little more practical metaphysics? Since the beginning of time we have had solid reflection on life's problems; we have stayed right down in the midst of these problems, wrestled with them, groveled with them and become covered with the mud and mire of them. What we need is to get a metaphysical view of them, to realize that it is the spiritual and unseen that rule the spiritual and the seen. Also we need a greater knowledge of mind (yes, mortal mind, if you will) and how it works. It has been said that the greatest study of mankind is man, but were it changed to read, "The greatest study of the universe is mind," it would come nearer the truth.

When we have learned to use our minds properly our bodies will not give us so much concern. When we have acquired the metaphysical attitude, the ability to look at all things from the spiritual side, we shall be able to solve our problems in much less time and in a more satisfactory way. Nothing seems more certain to the metaphysician than that there are two minds to which man has access—his own, or mortal mind, and a higher, or divine mind. Manifestly, the two should work together, but the great majority are trying to master their difficulties through the use of mortal mind alone, and without even a thorough knowledge of that.

Let us put psychology and metaphysics into our school curriculi, beginning with the first year and continuing them through the grades, high school and college, and life's problems will become so reduced that, except for those who prefer to consider religion something apart from life and to regard it as a Sunday diversion, we shall have but little use for sermons of any kind. People will do their own thinking and creeds will disappear. OBSERVER.

POSITIONS ON ISSUE IDENTICAL

They Who Attack The Oregonian Assail President in Lusitania Case.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—The position of our President on neutrality and the acts of European belligerents is cordially supported by all true Americans without regard to parties or birthplace, and as the position of The Oregonian is identical with said policy, it is clear that attacks on your position are, in fact, attacks on the President. Your support of our Chief Magistrate has been loyal and receives the practically unanimous approval of our people.

It should surprise no one that many in this country will approve anything that does not aid their native land, because many here are just as they would be if in their home country, except that they face no danger here and are better off in every way, else why here, unless as spies?

Without referring to the Lusitania murders, look to the sinking of the Gulflight, in broad daytime, an American ship and crew, under the American flag, her name and flag plainly in view over her sides and deck and carrying no contraband. Yet it was sunk despite the treaty with Germany of 1828.

America has been fair and impartial to all. It is no fault of ours that Germany cannot get supplies of us. But our thanks is the murder of our countrymen and women and children, some of whom were on their way to nurse and care for German sick and wounded.

For over 200 years my family have been native Americans. They cast their future with these colonies and the country of their adoption was their country and their property and blood were freely given for America. I, therefore, am an American citizen with malice toward none, unless deserved. I want a square deal for all.

NATIVE AMERICAN.

Marriage License Witnesses.

ALBANY, Or., May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly state if witnesses are needed in this state to obtain a marriage license when both parties are of age. (2) If so, what is the object in same? (3) What would couple do when going to strange county seat to be married?

SUBSCRIBER.

(1) One witness is needed to swear that both parties are of age and that there are no other legal impediments to their marriage.

(2) Evidently the Legislature's object in making this requirement was to prevent illegal "fly-by-night" marriages.

(3) If they cannot get a witness they are "out of luck."

Succeeding in Business.

Boston Transcript.

Bix—"No man ever succeeded in business who kept watching the clock."

Dix—"Oh, I don't know; there's the train dispatcher."

Measures on Ballot

No. 3.

Whether or not grocery stores shall be closed on Sundays is the principal issue in a "Sunday closing" ordinance which will be on the ballot at the June election. The measure was passed by the City Council April 29, 1914, and was held up by the invocation by grocers of the referendum.

Opponents of the measure—said to be small independent grocers—declare that the measure is unfair because it prohibits only the sale of groceries. It would permit butcher shops, bakeries, delicatessen shops, cigar stores, milk depots, fruit stands, confectioneries and refreshment parlors and stands to remain open. It would permit grocery stores to remain open to sell anything except "groceries." The term "groceries" is not defined in the ordinance as proposed.

Opponents of the measure declare that it is the product of a fight by organized grocers to embarrass one concern which has a number of stores which remain open nights, Sundays and holidays.

Following is the text of the ordinance as it will be voted upon:

"Section 1. It shall be unlawful to keep open any shop, store or grocery for the purpose of labor or traffic on the first day of the week commonly called 'Sunday' or the 'Lord's Day,' except for works of necessity or charity; provided that the above provision shall not apply to theaters or places of amusement, drugstores, undertaking establishments, shoe-shining stands, livery stables, garages, butcher shops, bakery and delicatessen shops, and provided further that meals may be served on the premises or elsewhere by caterers, and tobacco, milk, fruit, confectionery, soft drinks and ice cream, newspapers and periodicals, and medical and surgical appliances and supplies may be sold in a quiet and orderly manner.

"Section 2. In works of necessity or charity shall be included whatever is needful for the good order or health of a community, and acts for the preservation of life and property, but nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to permit the sale of groceries, clothing, sporting goods, boots or shoes, haberdashery, hardware or dry goods.

"Section 3. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof in the Municipal Court, be punished by a fine not to exceed fifty ($50) dollars."

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 19, 1865.

Orin Joynt has purchased one-half interest in the stove and hardware business of E. Milwain and the business will be conducted as Milwain & Joynt at 95 Front street.

The process that was issued some time ago in the name of the American people by Lieutenant-General Grant, against the felon Jeff Davis has been served in a proper manner by certain of Grant's subordinates and the most infamous criminal the world has ever known is now arraigned before that tribunal whose majesty he spurned and whose power he set at defiance. It is a study both curious and instructive to observe the recompense of Avenging Time. A little more than four years ago Davis, one of the cabal of Southern traitors, stood upon the floor of the National Legislature uttering words which every patriot knew to be the emanation of treasonable purpose. He was there confronted by Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, the man whom neither blandishments could seduce nor bribes allure, nor threats intimidate. And as Andrew Johnson heard these monstrous utterances which he knew to be treason—or which were of treason the very essence—he declared before that junta of shamelessly disloyal men that had he the power he would try them for treason and execute them as traitors.

That same inflexible Andrew Johnson is now President of the United States and that same villainous traitor Jefferson Davis is pre-judged criminal in the hands of the power of which Andrew Johnson is chief. Justice is not now much longer to be deprived of its views. Andrew Johnson and Jefferson Davis will soon meet again—the one now the honored head of the greatest nation on earth; the other a felon whom all execrate and abhor. How different the condition of the hated traitor from that of the man who remained true to his country in its evil day. No one needs to ask the question as to what will be the doom of the prince of traitors. The world is his accuser; the people of America are to judge him, and the law which he has so wickedly defied is to proclaim to all who would hereafter trample under foot or set themselves above it, that its retributive vengeance, though it may come tardily, will surely come at last.—H. W. S.

The War Department corrects the erroneous impression of the loss of the war, by announcing that the number of lives actually lost since the Rebellion began was 240,000 to date.

William A. Nixon and Joseph B. Robinson, printers on the staff of the Victoria Chronicle, were drowned near Victoria recently. Robinson was a son of J. B. Robinson, the actor, and a brother of Sue Robinson, well-known in Portland.

Miss R. Harvey, lately from Massachusetts, is going to supply the ladies of Portland with patterns of the latest dresses.

LET WATER USE BE ENCOURAGED

Neighborhood Jealousy Over Extra Pailful Should Be Put Aside.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—I thoroughly agree with Mayor Albee on the water meter question, with the exception that I do not believe that water meters will ever really be needed in Portland, with the great abundance of water nature has provided us with. If we have an insufficient supply of water at present for all purposes, let us by all means use this money to put in more water mains, and as time goes on, to continue to use the surplus earnings of the water bureau to put in additional mains as fast as needed, instead of wasting it on meters.

Why should the people of Portland be stinted in the amount of water used, while dust, grime and filth collect and fill the air, promoting sickness and disease, especially tuberculosis, with dry, barren lawns, while all this great abundance of water goes to waste? Would we have Portland like the dusty, dirty, grimy cities of the East and California—hotbeds of tuberculosis? A thousand times no! An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Then let us all have a plenty of this God-given blessing, pure water, which comes next to plenty of pure air.

Too bad, Commissioner Daly could not corner and meter the clouds, lest the public get a few raindrops free. I would to God that some system could be maintained whereby this clear, bright, sparkling water could always be as free to the consumers as the air we breathe. It is just as essential and conducive to health and longevity. Let us, as neighbors, broaden out a bit between the eyes, putting aside this narrow, petty, greedy, selfish jealousy, ever watching our neighbor, lest he have a pailful more water than we. There is a sufficiency for us all. Rather let us encourage our neighbor to use plenty of water to cleanse and purify his premises, thereby beautifying the city and promoting good health.

Last but not least, let each and every one go to the polls in June and vote down and out this needless penny-wise-and-pound-foolish meter policy.

A. SUBSCRIBER.

Ministers to United States.

DUNDEE, Or., May 15.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me the name and address of the Minister of Chile to the United States. Also of Equador.

JOHN H. M.

Chile: Senor Don Eduardo Suares, Washington, D. C.

Ecuador: Senor Don Gonzalo S. Cordova, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Cassidy's Contempt.

Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier.

"Why did you not help the defendant in the fight, if that's the case?" asked the examining counsel. Mr. Cassidy looked at the lawyer with contempt, and answered in a tone of blighting scorn, "For the r'ason that at the toime O' had no means of knowing which o' thim would be the defendant."

Best Form of Government.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"What are your ideas of the best form of government?" "Oh," replied the restless agitator; "it isn't a question of what kind of government we're after. It's merely getting rid of the one at present in operation."

That Little Bill.

Houston (Texas) Post.

"Well, how about that little bill?" "But I told you to call at 4 o'clock, and it is only 3 now." "I know it; I wanted to catch you in."

Choosing Summer Furniture

Warm weather suggests home-furnishing fashions of its own—lighter, brighter, less expensive things.

It is time for willow and wicker, grass rugs and beautiful cretonnes.

It is almost a marvel how little some of these desirable things cost.

Just glance through the advertising columns of The Oregonian from day to day and you will find lots of "home hints."

The advertising tells you where you can buy to the best advantage.