

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, Oct. 21, 1915.

WASTED ENERGY.

A considerable number of the people of Portland are at present, it seems, in need of a first primer lesson on the subjects of railroad rates and movements of commodities and their bearing on the relative customs receipts of Portland and Puget Sound.

The City of Astoria has had, since the day the railroad down the south bank of the river was completed to that city, the same rate that applies to Portland and Puget Sound.

The common-rate sought by Astoria affects grain. In grain shipments Portland has held its own. The impression that the O.-W. R. & N. Company carries wheat through Portland to Puget Sound is not born out by the facts.

Let us repeat it. The loss in shipping on the Columbia River has been in transcontinental business, not in grain. On transcontinental business Astoria has been on an equal rate footing with Portland and Puget Sound for twenty-five years.

There is a general desire in Portland that Astoria may work out its destiny untrammelled by selfish interests here or elsewhere. But it is clear that Portland's destiny is not to be worked out by heeding the clamor of uninformed economists or real estate men who have all at once set themselves up as traffic experts.

The rate question now in popular agitation was presented to the Interstate Commerce Commission at a formal hearing in 1912. Only one matter was argued, presumably, heard. A decision is expected at any time and it is not to be supposed that a judicial tribunal at this time would be affected by indorsement of or opposition to Astoria's contention on the part of commercial bodies and commercial interests in Portland.

The object of this article therefore is not to discredit the Astoria case but to voice a practical admonition to the numerous organized bodies in Portland now existing in connection with the matter against overlooking the real problems that confront Columbia River commerce.

The real impediment to Columbia River commerce has been the bar at the mouth of the river. Only some improvement on that channel could enter and depart with certainty in all weather. Since this improvement has been realized, the problem has been short to attract the liners here. All of them were getting all of the freight they could possibly handle from the ports of call they were making. They did not have to have a second port of call in the Northwest, with its additional port charges, to increase their loadings.

The fundamental reasons underlying our steamship situation may be divided into two studies. One is through freight, import and export. The other is through freight, import and export. On the through freight the problem is to get the large shippers and railroads to agree to give vessels who give service to this port a regular offering. This problem has no relationship whatever to a common-point grain rate at Astoria. In fact, the problem is to give convenience in operating directly to a large city. The problem of the local offering is one of compelling the shippers to recognize this as their principal reason of business, to put as much of their business as possible on the Columbia River direct line service as can be done within cost limits.

All of these problems the Trade and Commerce Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce has been studying ever since it existed. It has done so in a way that is worthy of commendation. It was studying them before with an effort to organize the business element of the community to back up and support absolutely the line that was secured for this port.

In addition, these agencies have been endeavoring to produce in connection with Portland of productive industries that would provide overseas traffic or manufacture raw imports for distribution throughout the interior. As to these activities, the real essential to the growth of commerce here is now promise of a fair degree of successful consumption. But this work will be seriously handicapped if the whole energies of the community are to be centered upon an issue which has no bearing on the case.

HEARREN. Hearken to the glad tidings from Liverpool. The pernicious, odious and heinous treating habit has been eschewed, abolished, terminated, dispensed and dispensed with. Everyone is buying his or her own. Not because politicians are washed from the good townspeople nor because prodigality doesn't continue to flourish. It has taken the majesty of the law to break up the practice. Not the mere writing of a statute, but the rigorous enforcement of it. Its provisions, which landed some scores of the sons of libidinality in the toils. The penalty provided has a limit of \$500 attached.

Report has it that those of bibulous inclinations have fallen short in their consumption by something like an equivalent of the English Channel. Some of the worst victims of the treating habit have actually gotten sober in the interim and, we may assume, laid by something to pay their taxes. All in all the new law is having such a fine effect that its adoption in other cities is seriously considered.

and a national anti-treating law may follow. Now that the law is a success in Liverpool, though it failed in Tacoma, it may be safe to write it into the Oregon statutes. True, the intervention of prohibition will shortly deprive the treating habit of its worst aspects. But treating is an abuse of many phases and should be attacked vigorously. It has gotten such a hold upon us that we are the victims of it in a deplorable measure and it affects us not only in an economic way but morally as well. As a promoter of insincerity the habit is without a rival.

How short is the distance between the practice of two women on a streetcar quibbling over the privilege of paying the fare? How much sincerity is there in the insistence of a man that he be permitted to buy the dinner or theater tickets for the whole party? What moral distinction is there between actually cheating a friend and delaying your pocketward movement until he has gotten out his purse and paid the bill?

Furthermore, the really liberal and polite man always gets the worst of such transactions. He who is too honest for subterfuge invariably foots the bill. Often he is the one of the party who least affords the sacrifice. But custom once established is hard to break, and the only practicable way we can see out of this foolish vice of extravagance and misguided liberality is through an initiative measure. It is up to some of our several promoters of human affairs to launch the necessary petitions.

NOT NECESSARY. One of the most amusing things in the political way that has happened for years past is the "states rights" Oregonian in the time when the mention of states rights is a synonym for the worst of temporary political expediency.

There was a time when state rights meant state sovereignty and state sovereignty meant the dissolution of the Union. The Oregonian, states now, in common with millions of patriotic citizens, declared the supremacy of the Union, and denied the supremacy of the states. The issue was determined by the arbitration of a tremendous civil war. The states lost and the Union lives.

The Oregonian is pleased if it has contributed in any way to popular enlightenment in a discussion over a defense and even vital matter; and it rejoices over the unexpected discovery that its solemn contemporary has a sense of humor. But it ought to be easier to incite a spirit of hilarity over the remarkable reversal of the Democratic attitude toward the Federal Government than it is.

For example, the Democratic platform of 1912—that sad and mutilated and shabby document, with none so poor to do it reverence—vigorously denounced as "usurpation" the efforts of our opponents to deprive the states of any of the rights reserved to them and to enlarge and magnify by the action of the Federal Government.

But now, alas! the Democrats are in power at Washington and the poor state of Oregon is to be made a precedent to enlarge and magnify by the action of the Federal Government.

Oregonian has never failed to uphold the rights of state municipalities to control its own local or domestic concerns. That is quite a different thing from the seditious doctrine of secession and nullification.

STILL MISSING \$1,000,000. Commission government has come out triumphant under peculiar circumstances. For example, the cost of paving has dropped 21 cents in Portland. "It is one of the many things that prove commission government valuable for the things it has eliminated in Portland," cries a triumphant herald. But why so modest a small amount? The Portland Commission is omnipotent and omnipresent. The cost of paving has dropped in all Northwest cities and in the East. The Portland municipal government must have done it. Come to think of it, one can build a home or business building cheaper than when the last Council was in power. Wonderful!

Again: "Special agents of the public service and paving corporations used to go on the floor of the chamber when the Council in session and whisper secret things into the willing ears of Councilmen." Do they do it now? Nay, nay. Paid lobbyists also used to go on the floor of the Legislature of Washington, Oregon and California and whisper secret things into the ears of willing legislators. But they do so no longer and have ceased to make public appearance in most of the Council chambers. Thus has the influence for good been truly wonderful. Of course, no credit is due to the progress in civic and political righteousness that has independently swept the Pacific Coast.

But then argument like the foregoing is needed to bolster up a system that is promised to save the city \$1,000,000 a year and has gone the other way.

FUTURE OF THE JITNEY. What is the future of the jitney? That question is suggested by the failure of Portland to regulate it and by its persistence in the face of mathematical proof that its owner must end in bankruptcy, unless it is regulated by Oregon City in adopting regulations and license fees so drastic as to drive it out of business.

In defiance of mathematics there are still men who are willing to take the chance of success, as there are men who try to get into the game of Wall Street or roulette. The man who has no job but who has an automobile and the price of gasoline cannot resist the temptation to pick up a few nickels in the jitney business, though he may wreck his car to pieces and so destroy his capital without accumulating means of buying a new car. Until business becomes so brisk that there are jobs for all, the crop of drivers is not likely to fall to pieces.

But longer-headed jitney men have begun to secure themselves against bankruptcy by substituting the omnibus carrying twenty or thirty passengers for the small car carrying five or six. The business method of competing with the trolley bus and causing both to lose money, the jitney may take to a populous suburb which has no electric cars and may become a feeder to the trolley. It may give extension without the heavy expense of laying track and providing cars.

As paved highways are built into the country, large jitney buses are already extending their traffic farther afield among more remote towns and villages. We may soon see great autobuses bowling along the roads throughout Oregon after the manner of the old-time stage coach. The jitney may thus become the means of bringing remote rural regions into close touch with the city without the great expense and elaborate organization of a railroad.

The jitney's future lies only along national lines. It is not found in small-city competition with established street-car service.

WHERE ARE THOSE WICKED POWER MEN? Quoting a dispatch to The Oregonian stating that Hugh L. Cooper, of Newport, representing capitalists who built the Keokuk dam, would donate to a project to invest \$10,000,000 in power development on the Pend d'Oreille River if the Ferris bill were enacted, the Journal asks:

Where indeed? Are they "somewhere along the front" now lobbying indirectly for passage of the bill with offers of large gobs of money for influential under the table? The spoon-chasing Journal formerly has been the Water-Power Conference a conspiracy of the power interests to kill the Ferris bill and to grab the power sites. It now halts and welcomes one of the power interested spokesmen as a friend of the legislation. States power men cannot be at the same time both friends and enemies of the bill.

The attitude of the Western states in the Ferris bill is prompted by motives entirely different from those of the power interests. The Western states oppose it from a determination to control their own affairs and to suffer no encroachment on their rights.

Not until we saw great nations fall upon each other with the armed strength of their entire male population did we awaken to the necessity of governing ourselves. We had been listening to the talk of ourselves as invincible and of peace and amity until we had actually come to believe it and to act upon it. If the attack had been made upon us by some European nation instead of by the several nations of Europe upon one another, we might have ceased to brag of our National self-defense was demonstrated in the case of other nations.

Having been largely responsible for the continuation of two and one-half centuries of slaughter in Mexico for more than two and one-half centuries and having refused even to avenge the murder of our own citizens in that country, the less we prate about our regard for humanity the better. We have been in the service for humanity, but so have other nations. We have done much for Belgium, but France, Britain and Holland, though under the strain or threat of war, have taken to their arms, fed and clothed hundreds of thousands of Belgian refugees.

By getting rid of our delusions we may become wiser and awake to the stern facts of the world's life and may become less bumptious and more careful of our own security. We may also learn to do better service to humanity. If we keep our eyes open to the world as by other nations as well as by ourselves and if we keep them open to the respects in which we have fallen short as well as to those in which we have risen to our duties.

JEAN HENRI FABRE. Who has not heard of Christopher Columbus, discoverer of a new continent? But how many have heard of Jean Henri Fabre, discoverer of a new universe? Fabre is dead at the advanced age of ninety-two years, the first of eighty-two of which he lived without anyone knowing very much about him and his interesting researches. In the ten years since belated recognition was velted upon his peculiar genius his fame has been sung in many tongues, although the world has not yet acquainted with him. But his fame will spread. Henri Fabre, overlooked in his lifetime by a busy world, will be held in mind long after many popular names of his day have perished from memory.

The universe Fabre laid bare was that of the insects. Under his gentle, tireless scrutiny, they ceased to be mere crawling pests and took on strangely grotesque or romantic aspects. He was not content, with other naturalists, to subject them to anatomical and microscopic examination and chemical tests. He delved into the lives and habits of this strange realm. Moreover, he reduced his observations to a literature of rare charm. "If I write for men of learning," he once explained, "who will only try to unravel the problems of the insect world, I write also, I write above all, for the youthful. I want to make others make the same mistakes that I myself made, and that is why, while keeping strictly to the domain of truth, I avoid the scientific prose which too often, alas, seems borrowed from some Iroquois idiom."

And so he worked, keeping to the truth in his observations and conclusions, but finding simple poetic expression in recording what he felt. He spent his long years in the strange universe he had discovered. He lost sight of the fretfulness of this other world, of the insect world, of the occurrences of the insect world. He viewed their ways, romances and intrigues, loves, hates and activities as if he might have observed the conduct of mortals. With inexhaustible patience, he recorded the insect world, the old man fairly inhabiting his other realm, emerging into human guise only long enough to recount what he had noted for the delectation of his fellow mortals.

Beetles, flies, ants, weevils, scorpions, moths, even grasshoppers, world in forms of study and their habits were recorded in successive volumes, the "Souvenirs Entomologiques." He depicted the conflicting emotions and morals of this quaint world, now telling of dire tragedies, now of wondrous gentleness and devotion. It was he who heralded "atrocities" in the domain of Tachytes and Anomphila, those insect monsters who are endowed with such marvelous

instincts of cruelty that they know exactly where to prick their quarry in order to paralyze the nerve centers. He exposed the female scorpion, which devours its mate before the honeymoon has waned; the cone-shaped hemiptera, which nature equips with shield and blade to slay their brothers and sisters as they lie helpless in their trundle beds. When he has harrowed us with these terrors he leads us to observe the domestic acrids in their gentle pursuits; the courtly Osmia bee patiently waiting in the cocoon until her sister is ready to emerge, and the thousand and one incidents of life among these strange creatures, incidents which have a striking similarity to our own romantic sympathies.

It is the Fabre interpretations that give to these tiny creatures their hold of interest. Had he not been half poet and half naturalist no doubt we should be observing all these phenomena in hard, scientific phrases. The praying mantis, lying in wait for its prey in attitude of devotion, would remain nothing more than a diminutive insect with an elaborately technical name. Its unspokeable hypocrisy and unspokeable cruelty would have remained undetected. It took the poet's imagination of Fabre to interpret and gauge the baseness of its deeds.

Fabre's own story is one of hardship and wretchedness. Born in an obscure village of poverty-stricken peasants, his life was a continual struggle against adversity. He managed to gain a fragmentary education through hard work and hard knocks, after which he set about gathering up the scraps of his acquired fondness for natural history. He had later claimed as much of his time as was not consumed by the necessity of seeking that which keeps body and soul together. The great Darwin came along and Fabre's life was a comparable observer," but it doubtless if few outside his immediate surroundings knew anything about his work until ten years ago, when the Belgian Maeterlinck, himself an observant of nature, interpreted his work and heralded him in a volume which at once aroused universal interest in the quaint worker.

Therapion the French government looked him up and to it that he did not want for the actual work of his life. His books came into a wider demand and were translated into foreign languages, including English. But the simple scientist-philosopher kept his hands clean, never deserting that grotesque university which had given him solace from his own world through so many generations. Now that he has gone, such is the value of his works that a fickle world will strive to realize his true worth and side with the talk of translation into a form that can no longer have.

Carranza appears to have profited by his defiance of and long resistance to American suggestions and mandates. Not only has the Administration recognized Carranza as the legitimate president of Mexico, but Carranza, but not in setting about giving him assistance. An embargo on arms leaves Carranza's enemies without fresh supplies of munitions, so that he should be able to find martial success easy as far as armed and organized resistance is concerned. But if this measure is good now, why has it not been tried long ago? Why the long delay of non-effective intermeddling and weak diplomatic interference which has served to drag Mexico to the brink of ruin? Carranza's choice of words is reported to have been made with keen appreciation of the exigencies of the situation.

The manager of the hotel upheld the waiter in his action, and Faversham, accompanied by Miss Opp and other members of the company, immediately moved to another hostelry.

A cynical actress says in an interview, "The woman of today is a failure—to most men she is a joke." And yet most men pride themselves on being able to take a joke.

In Canada, Ottawa, to be exact, the night school and daughters are acclaiming Sophie Tucker for bringing them a new patriotic classic. It happened this way. Sophie, who is American to her finger tips, had a large hunch that singers in vaudeville and in musical comedy with songs that go great in the United States frequently have crossed the line into Canada, and found their repertoire did not fit, regardless of how inspiring the music might be. The Canadians are unable to work up any enthusiasm over "Star Spangled Banner" numbers, such as are sung by John Philip Sousa and by the authors of "America, I Love You." This particular song in the last three weeks has proved a great hit weekly in almost every theater in New York City, and presumably throughout the country. At any rate, it was in Sophie Tucker's repertoire when she reached Montreal.

Miss Tucker was sure the Canadians would like the music, and she considered the words jingly. She made up her mind the song was going to stay in her repertoire and that she was going to make it a hit. The routine song dienne accomplished both results by making a change of just one word. The way she sang the song was: "England, I Love You."

An actress has sued her husband for divorce because she stutters. She reckoned she didn't notice it during the ceremony.

John Drew is again in New York, ready to begin rehearsals on his new play, under the direction of Augustus Thomas. The piece is a comedy in three acts, written by Horace Annesley Vachell. No title has yet been given it. Mr. Drew is still under the Frohman banner.

Something more for us to worry about. Famine is cutting off ostrich life in South Africa.

Walter Regan, of the Baker Players, blew in the other day with an article he had found in a Chicago newspaper to the effect that a pastor in a church there is putting toys in the pews to tempt the children. And Walter Regan gave it his opinion that next thing ministers should do is to find something to amuse the grown-ups.

Klaw & Erlanger have selected a new play for Robert Hilliard. The piece is said to have a theme which deals with the marriage of a man with a tint of negro blood and a white woman, with offspring results that are said to give the play "atmosphere."

I predict a tremendous success for that little play down below the Masons and Dixon line.

Naval Advisory Board. MONMOUTH, Or., Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me whether Thomas Edwin, Henry Ford and the other members of the Naval Advisory Board are to receive a salary or other compensation for their services? I have failed to find this in the papers. W. C. HOPPER.

The members of the board receive no compensation.

Thomas W. Lawson's Address. PORTLAND, Oct. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Will the Oregonian kindly tell me, so soon as possible, the present address of Thomas W. Lawson, also the location of his Oregon or Washington ranch. MRS. ANNA WILSON.

Mr. Lawson's office address is 33 State street, Boston, Mass. His Oregon ranch is located near Prineville.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Beer.

Atress is hit by a milk wagon, says headline. Driver was possibly trying to hitch his wagon to a star.

Charlotte Walker is appearing in New York at the Booth Theatre, as leading woman with E. H. Sothern. The play is "The Two Virtues," a comedy in four acts by Alfred Sutro. Mrs. Sothern (Julia Marlowe) has positively retired permanently—she says.

Anna Held arrived from Europe on the steamer St. Louis last Tuesday afternoon. Six hours later Oliver Morosco, who is affiliated with the Paramount Company, had obtained her signature to a contract for a feature picture. For her labor in posing before the camera Miss Held will receive \$45,000. Later on, according to Mr. Morosco's arrangement, she will appear in a new musical play.

Anna Held is one of the few prominent stars who have not yet been seen in pictures. Anna's daughter, Leone, has just come a cropper in musical comedy, and mother and not particularly good friends since Leone went on the stage against Anna's wishes. Leone's name is Carrera. She is a daughter by Anna Held's first marriage.

And now comes Frederic McKay, erstwhile husband of Blanche Ring, and manager now for Miss Franklin and Mr. Green. He was indignantly when he heard the story.

"I shall protect Miss Franklin in every way," he said, "and the treatment which she has been compelled to endure cannot go on. The taking away of her dressing-room was only one of many like occurrences. One thing I absolutely shall do. I'll sue the railway company or the Pullman company, whichever was responsible for her losing her room. I have the ticket for it in my possession. I call for damages, \$10,000, if the train leaving Pittsburgh at 12:05 A. M., October 5. The trainmen would not let her have it."

Two other kindly souls who are not crocheting each other a Christmas tidy are William Faversham and a waiter in a hotel in Syracuse, N. Y.

William Faversham, while appearing in Syracuse, was breakfasting one morning in the grillroom of the hotel. Julie Opp, his wife, attempted to enter the room to join him, and was rudely intercepted by the German waiter. Mr. Faversham saw his wife's predicament, and Germany and England clashed again. Faversham's choice of words is reported to have been made with keen appreciation of the exigencies of the situation.

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European War Primer

By National Geographical Society.

"The Save River, which forms the boundary line between Hungary and Serbia from the northwestern corner of the small Slav kingdom to the river's junction with the Danube at Belgrade, and which has again become an important war frontier, is the largest right-hand tributary of the Danube." Begins a statement given out today by the American Geographical Society. The Save, in its lower course, is a slow-moving, mud-bottomed stream, flowing between low banks, marshy in many of their stretches, lined with reeds and bordered by forests. When it forms Serbia's northern boundary it is broad, and its course sweeps in deep bends to Belgrade.

"It rises in the Triglav hills, in Carniola, just north of the present Austro-Italian battle line about Goers and Cillach, and flows east-southward, a distance of 443 miles, to its confluence with the Danube. It is navigable for smaller steamers as far as Sisek, 352 miles from its mouth, though its variable volume and shifting bars are a great hindrance. The river passes through a fruitful country, but one which has been little developed, and its commercial importance is therefore small. Moreover, the lines of traffic here lie west and north, rather than east and south. There is, however, good hunting on the Save, and its reedy banks are well known among European sportsmen.

"There are no cities of any importance along the river's way, except Belgrade at its mouth. South of the river, into Serbia, there are only a complex of mountain peaks to be found, with here and there, tiny villages cleared in the forested hills. This valley, however, extends along the whole Serbian coast, and reaches south to the confines of the kingdom. The valley-way through Serbia follows the Morava River, which flows north and joins the Danube east of Belgrade. The Save River, Serbia offers little that is valuable."

MOTHER O' MINE. When I was a babe, O mother o' mine, I tugged and nursed at your patient breast. And I vexed and tortured your nights when you never complained, sweet mother o' mine. When I was a lad, dear mother o' mine, I caused you sorrow and pain and grief. I was breaking your heart, for you loved me so. That you prayed to God, O mother o' mine. When I was a man, dear mother o' mine, I lived in the shadows of shame and gloom. I scoffed at a Heaven, I wallowed in slime. Yet you called me not, O mother o' mine. And in later years, good mother o' mine, When, wounded and bleeding and ready to die, I crept to your side with a cowardly moan. Then what did you do, sweet mother o' mine? You healed my wounds, you gave me strength. You cleansed my soul with a mother's love. Though it shortened your life by a score of years. That's what you did, O mother o' mine. Now I'm old and feeble and almost blind. And I'm waiting for death with his hand on my hand. To guide me along to that blessed land. Oh God send you, sweet mother o' mine. —JACK WOLF.

SEASIDE, Or., Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—As a naturalized citizen of this country the right to vote in the coming election (county election) if he has not had the opportunity to register, and have the election judge give the right to let him vote, providing he can get three freeholders to swear him in? (2) If a man produce his citizenship paper when registering in a county, the paper has not been received yet, would not written statement that he has not had the opportunity to register, and have the election judge give the right to let him vote, providing he can get three freeholders to swear him in? (3) If the citizenship paper can be produced a day or two after registration, would not the election judge give the right to let him vote, providing he can get three freeholders to swear him in? 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