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PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1915

LET BEST EXPERIENCE GUIDE US.

Discussion of the ship-purchase bill has revived talk of subsidies as the means of reviving the American merchant marine. In support of this policy an imposing array of statistics is presented, showing the large sums paid by the most important shipping countries to ship-owners.

These statistics are misleading, because they lump together outright subsidies and payments for actual services rendered.

An article by Franklin Clarkin in the Boston Transcript goes into the subject in great apparent detail. His table of annual sums paid by each government to ship-owners includes all payments under all heads—subsidies, ocean mail pay, navigation and construction bounties, admiralty subventions, naval reserve appropriations, fisheries bounties, refund of Suez Canal tolls, and so forth—to an imposing total of $46,000,000 a year.

The only part of these sums which can justly be classed as a subsidy is the payments frankly made under that head, the navigation and construction bounties, fisheries bounties and refund of canal tolls. Only that part of the payments for mail-carrying, admiralty subventions and naval reserve appropriations can be classed as subsidy which exceeds the actual value of services rendered.

Examination of this table and comparison with the statements of the purposes for which payments are made reveal its misleading character. For example, the largest sum—$10,000,000—is credited to Great Britain, yet we are told that "It has always been denied by British writers on shipping topics that the British government paid subsidies for commercial purposes, all payments to steamship companies being purely for the conveyance of mail." It is admitted that the so-called subsidy to the Cunard line was an interest-bearing loan in place of the admiralty subvention of $75,000 and in addition to regular mail pay. Thus the British government does not pay subsidies, unless mail pay, admiralty pay and naval reserve pay are excessive. Yet the British nation has more than half the world's shipping.

As regards ocean commerce, Germany stands second, though that country's direct payments in all forms are far smaller than those of either Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Austria-Hungary or Spain. The only direct cash subsidy paid by Germany appears to be a bounty for ships built at home, unless mail payments are excessive, and subsidized ships are required to use German coal and to employ German labor. Indirect aid, which is probably more valuable, consists in admission duty free of shipbuilding material, preferential rates for shipyards on state railroads and reductions of railroad rates on exports to Africa and the Levant. Of the nations named as paying heavier subsidies than Germany, Japan shows the greatest gain in tonnage between the years 1909 and 1914, but Germany showed a 19 per cent larger gain.

There are numerous ways in which the United States can aid the merchant marine without resort to the odious subsidy. We can remove the restrictions to which Captain Robert Dollar ascribes chiefly the disappearance of our flag from the sea. We can pay liberally, but not extravagantly, for direct mail service on American ships. We can pay for the training of naval reserves and for options on ships, both men and ships to be placed instantly at Government service in case of war. We can permit reduced joint rail and steamship rates between interior points and foreign ports. In adopting a policy, let us be guided by the experience of the most successful shipping nations, not by that of nations which have just begun to engage in ocean commerce, or by that of nations whose merchant marine is a mere incubator bantling.

STILL ALIENS AT HEART.

The decided preference for the interests of their native country over those of the United States which has been shown by many persons of alien birth has raised a grave question, the settlement of which cannot safely be long deferred. Its gravity may be inferred from the fact that, when George Herberner, an American-born citizen of German parentage and a prospective juror in the trial of Dr. Karl Buenz, of the Hamburg-American line, was asked whether his convictions about the war would prevent him from trying the case fairly, he replied: "I am afraid they would."

This man is representative of 42.4 per cent of the population of Pennsylvania, for that percentage is either alien or born of alien parents. Probably those of opposing nationality counterbalance each other, and thus peace is kept, but if this country should quarrel with the native country of any one nationality, there would be danger that many of that nationality would be disloyal. When American birth does not inspire loyalty to the United States in many cases, naturalization would inspire it in still fewer cases.

But an increasingly large proportion of immigrants do not become citizens. Among 1,433,749 persons of voting age in New York City in the year 1910 more than 500,000 were unnaturalized and showed no intent to identify themselves with the American Nation. They are mere campers, who come to this country to pick up gold and move on, as did the placer miners in the pioneer days of the West.

It is time for the American people not only to Americanize thoroughly those aliens who swear allegiance but to consider whether a limit should not be placed on the residence in this country of aliens who come only to fill their pockets and fly away. This is the more necessary as included in the number are some who not merely intend to remain aliens, but are enemies of the Nation.

ON WHOSE BUSINESS?

Doubtless the Portland School Board is not desirous of going on record in approval of the ridiculous Ford peace pilgrimage, but it is willing to give one of its principals, Miss DeGraff, leave during the period of her absence to interview the crowned heads and to stay the mailed fists of Europe.

Miss DeGraff hiked abroad a year ago, projecting her fearless presence into the midst of war's alarms, in company with Jane Addams and other soft voices and stout hearts, to hold some kind of a peace conference. It was widely heralded that she was the authorized representative of the Portland public schools. Now she is on her way again.

This is a kind of business the Portland schools should keep out of. If it is desirable from any standpoint that Miss DeGraff, a principal, go, it is also desirable that she leave her principalship behind her. If she feels that she has a call to engage in international meddling, let her enter that risky occupation on her own account and not on the public's account. It ought to be her own affair, if she insists on embarking on a fool's errand.

ANOTHER CHANCE GONE.

The prohibition law which becomes effective January 1 does not impose a very severe penalty upon the person who receives a shipment of intoxicants in excess of two quarts of ardent liquors or twenty-four quarts of malt liquors within a period of four weeks. The punishment is a fine of not more than $50 or imprisonment in the County Jail for not longer than thirty days.

In other days the mildness of the penalty might have encouraged attempts to ship liquors into the state in larger quantities than the legal limit, labeled as something else. The carrier could not be held responsible if not aware of the true nature of the package's contents.

But a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States renders the danger more acute. It is held that a person who ships liquor from one state to another without labeling it as liquor may be prosecuted in either state. Thus a liquor dealer in wet California who ships wine into dry Oregon under a false label may be prosecuted in California under the Webb-Kenyon law.

It is not likely that liquor dealers will care to run the risk of that law's penalty, so all that is left for the man who cannot be content with the Oregon limit is to go elsewhere or stock up in advance.

But more significant is the probable effect of the decision on the business of bootlegging. The bootlegger must have a source of supply. If he cannot induce a dealer to ship him liquor in the guise of a trunk of wearing apparel, as the corpse of a deceased relative or as the household piano, he will be hard-put in plying his trade.

However, freedom from bootleggers and blind-piggers is not to be immediately expected. The availability of stocks just prior to the taking effect of the law will be a temptation that the lawless will find hard to resist. There will be plenty of law-enforcement work to be done in the first year of prohibition.

DEEP WATER IN THE HUDSON.

After Hamburg, Antwerp and other great ports at the head of ocean navigation on rivers have proved by their great development the truth of the principle that ships go as far inland as they find deep enough water, and after Portland has acted on that principle by improving the river channel as those ports did, Portland has been asked to admit that ships will not come beyond the mouth of the river. That would have been the logical conclusion had Portland agreed to parity of railroad rates from the interior to Portland and Astoria.

New York City has been the one remarkable exception which seemed to prove the contrary. It has grown at the mouth of the Hudson River, although ships could go up the Hudson to Albany, 150 miles away. But Albany neglected to do what Hamburg, Antwerp and Portland have done—deepen the channel to keep pace with the growth of ships, or failed to procure the deepening by the Nation or state. New York City also owed its growth largely to construction of the Erie Canal in pre-railroad days, which made it the terminus of the water route between the head of the lakes and the ocean. That city discovered that it was losing its grain trade because the canal had become antiquated and because railroads were raising rates to a point where that trade was being driven to Montreal. In the last fifteen years grain rates between Buffalo and New York have almost doubled, and public regulation, National and state, has failed to check the advance.

New York City awakened and carried the bond issue for improvement of the Erie Canal against the opposition or indifference of the up-state counties. A vote on another bond issue of $27,000,000 to complete the work is soon to be taken, and the up-state counties have become so alive to the merits of water transportation that they now agitate for improvement of the Hudson River channel to Albany and for extension of deep water to Troy, where it would connect with the canal. The Government is to be asked for a channel 400 feet wide and twenty-seven feet deep, at an estimated cost of $10,000,000.

Upper New York State is not afraid that the ship channel and the canal will not be used. It points to the high cost of terminals, docks and transfer at New York City as a reason why commerce should extend up the Hudson. It sees the New York docks and railroad terminals so congested with freight that there is a positive blockade, and that traffic may be diverted to rival ports. It proposes to do what should have been done many years ago—open the channel as far as practicable for ships, that deep-water traffic may hold and increase the business of New York State and that there may be more room for that business. It learns from an article in the Knickerbocker Press by Alexander McDougall, of Duluth, Minn., one of the greatest of American shipbuilders, that in 1872 he found freight transferred at British ports from larger to smaller vessels to be carried to continental ports, "where the harbor channels were not deep enough for larger ships." A ship on which he was a passenger in that year "went aground at the mouth of the Elbe in trying to go up to Hamburg."

In 1911 he found that Hamburg had deepened the Elbe and Antwerp had deepened the Scheldt to allow large vessels to enter, "and as a result they each claim to handle the greatest tonnage of any seaport in the world." He tells Albany that "what a deeper channel has done for Hamburg and Antwerp can be done for Albany," and that "with a 27-foot channel to the sea Albany is certain to become one of the greatest ports in the world."

Portland has a direct interest in this Hudson River improvement, for it is predicted that a saving of $1.50 a ton will be made on all freight shipped direct from this coast to Hudson River ports and ports on the Erie Canal. The Rochester Evening Times says the deeper Hudson would cut "the freight cost of Pacific Coast lumber in half" and substantiates this statement by saying:

> The largest cargo ever shipped from the Pacific Coast lumber ports recently came through the Panama Canal and up the Hudson to Poughkeepsie, where the lumber was reshipped through New York and New England by rail, at a saving of $8 per 1000 feet.

Through various causes the principle which has been illustrated in the growth of Hamburg, Antwerp, London and Glasgow were defied in the failure of Albany to become a great port, but that principle is now asserting itself. Portland will benefit, for when the Hudson is opened to shipping as far as Troy, lumber cargoes for interior New York and New England will be loaded at Portland and will be unloaded at Albany or Troy, not at New York City. Ships will go from the head of deep-water navigation on the Columbia and Willamette to the head of deep-water navigation on the Hudson.

A DOUBTFUL SCHEME.

A cry goes up from Arkansas for an appropriation of $10,000,000 for the improvement of the lower Arkansas River, in that state, by the construction of "a series of dikes, revetments, wing dikes and jetties from the mouth to the Tulsa district." The inducement offered is that 500,000 tons of freight annually could be carried, the bulk of it from the undeveloped coal fields of Northwestern Arkansas and the adjoining oil fields of Oklahoma.

The Arkansas is navigable for only four months of the year, and then for only 460 miles of its course. It has a dry season and a wet season, and frequent sudden floods. When swollen, it cuts its banks and wanders about in an irresponsible manner. Only with great difficulty and at great expense can such a river be confined to a definite bed. It may be true that much coal could be transported down the river, but whether it would is doubtful. Nothing but practically assured all-the-year-round navigation would justify any large expenditure on improvement.

For just such questionable schemes there is constant clamor for appropriations, but when money is demanded to secure the safety of the Nation sudden enthusiasm for economy seizes the boosters.

DEMOCRACY IN WAR.

A favorite plea for one-man rule is that democracies are inefficient in war. Monarchists point to unpreparedness and to ill-preparedness; to internal strife; to interference of politicians with the selection and plans of military commanders; to foolish extremes of joy and rage at successes and defeats; to divided counsels and gabbling of secrets. All these evils, supposed to be inseparable from democracy, are presumed by monarchists to make the military success of a democracy impossible.

These panegyrists of autocracy close their mental eyes to one set of historical facts and see only the set which fits their argument. They see Alexander the Great's career of conquest, but they cannot see the rapid break-up of his empire nor the victories of Greek democracy over the Persians. They forget the triumphs of the Roman republic and see only the conquests of the proconsuls and emperors, closing their eyes again to the decay which made the empire an easy prey to the barbarians. They glory in the victories of the English Plantagenet kings, but have nothing to say of Cromwell's Ironsides smashing King Charles' armies.

They do not attempt to explain Swiss democracy's victories over Austria and Burgundy and its survival to this day. They ignore the victories of the first French republic over leagued Europe and expatiate on those of Napoleon, passingly lightly over his final defeat. They are "stumped" by the disasters which befell Napoleon III and again in the efficiency in war shown by the third republic. Nor do they explain how the American republic acquired the efficiency necessary to crush the rebellion and yet to remain a republic. Nor do they attempt to reconcile the military weakness of democracy with the existence of democracies in various forms in France, Great Britain, Italy, Holland and Scandinavia nor with the disastrous failure of the Russian autocracy in the present war.

BLUNDERING BRITISH CHIEFS.

By a single brilliant speech Winston Churchill turned the tables on the critics who have hounded him for a year and turned the fire from himself to the experts whose advice he has been accused of rejecting when First Lord of the Admiralty. He denied that he acted against the advice of experts in ordering the Hogue, Cressy and Aboukir to sea, where they were sunk by submarines. A month before the Antwerp expedition was undertaken he drew the attention of Asquith, Grey and Kitchener to the city's danger. That expedition was finally planned by Kitchener and the French government, and he was not consulted until troops were moving. Then he offered to go to Antwerp and report on the situation. His offer was accepted and his advice was acted on and the result was advantage to the allies.

Mr. Churchill has been blamed for making a naval attack on the Dardanelles without the aid of a land force against the advice of naval experts, but he transfers the responsibility to these experts and to Kitchener. This movement was proposed as long ago as November 20, 1914, and "all recognized that joint naval and military action was the best way of attacking." He offered to provide transports for 40,000 men from Egypt to Gallipoli, but was informed, presumably by Kitchener, "that no troops were available and that if they were they should not be used in Gallipoli." Admirals Carden and Jackson believed the Dardanelles forts could be reduced by a sustained naval bombardment. At an interview on January 28 with Asquith and Fisher he gathered the impression that Fisher approved a purely naval attack and the French naval staff approved.

These statements must have been a staggering blow to British confidence in the heads of the army and navy. Kitchener has been considered next to infallible, but he is largely to blame for the omission to send troops to the Dardanelles at a time when the 40,000 men asked by Churchill might have rushed the unready Turks off their feet. Forty thousand men then might have done what ten times that number could scarcely do now. In face of this refusal to give military aid, Fisher, who has been lauded as being infallible in naval affairs, consented to a purely naval attack, and not until he and two other admirals approved was it undertaken.

When to these evidences of incapacity on the part of their most trusted chiefs the British people add definite reports of blundering on the French front by which attacks undertaken and succeeding at enormous cost failed of final success, they may well be dismayed. There has been systematic shielding and protection of the blunderers, both in London and at the front, under cover of the censorship. If the lid were lifted and the truth were permitted to come out, the Germans would learn their enemies' weakness, but some highly placed and titled officers would suffer the disgrace they have earned.

The folly of permitting a politician like Secretary Daniels to revise the details of plans prepared by men who know the business of the Navy is well shown by the Security League's report on the President's defense plans. The Navy is short of crews for existing ships and no provision has been made to man ships now building. The proposed increase of 10,000 men and 250 officers will fall far short of these requirements, leaving out of consideration the new ships which Mr. Daniels proposes. Common sense dictates that when the keel of a ship is laid, enough additional officers and men go into training to man that ship, that when it is finished its crew may be ready to take charge.

The statement made that in ten months of this year there have been only 1498 marriages in Multnomah County and 621 divorces does not represent the actual fact. If the number of marriages occurring in Vancouver of Portland people who would evade an obnoxious law were counted, the proportion of divorces would not be so alarmingly great.

"Uncle Ike" Stephenson shows up "Battling Bob" La Follette in a new light, as a man who found no taint in Stephenson's money so long as it was used for La Follette's preferment, but when his political angel used it for personal political purposes, it became the filthiest of filthy lucre. Is there such a thing as a spotless reformer?

Neutrals continue to shout for peace. Well, they have it, and apparently the only means of imposing it on the belligerents is to force it upon them, for they do not want it. That would mean more war. As for Ford's peace ship, it will make even the wounded laugh, except those whose cachinnatory muscles are disabled.

Greece is a more unhappy nation than either Belgium or Serbia. The worst has happened to the latter nations and they have at least the melancholy satisfaction of having put up a good fight, but Greece is scared stiff at the thought of what will happen to her, whichever side she jumps off the fence.

The Kaiser should know by this time that there is no more love between various sects of Mohammedans than there is between some sects of Christians, and that a call to a holy war by the head of one sect will have the reverse effect to that intended on the other sects.

The classes in journalism can take lessons in running the old "mankiller" of a hand press, but it is not likely any of them will have one in his office equipment when he begins to mold public opinion.

Mistakes in forecasting the weather must not be held against the bureau officials. If a man could always predict the weather, he would make more in other lines.

Portland will have the holiday aspect with greenery along the curbs and store windows brilliantly lighted. The season of the evening promenade is at hand.

If anything could shake the confidence of New York in its own superiority, it should be the calm contempt expressed by the woman sheriff from Arizona.

Liquors on hand when Oregon becomes "dry" will not be wasted. California will be seeking bargains, to sell back in lawful quantities.

The young couple who quarrel about the size of stockings to be worn by a baby yet unborn would better compromise by figuring on twins.

That comparison of Tom Watson's alleged obscene writings to the Bible is flattering to Watson, but it is too old a dodge to win.

If C. W. Post were alive, he would show Henry Ford what a peace expedition should be. He would find "a reason."

Whatever Colonel Roosevelt may do next year, he is at present listening most intently with his ear to the ground.

The man who lives in a district of hard-surfaced streets is proud of his surroundings in the rainy season.

It is too bad a horse cannot fight back when a man beats him with a piece of rubber hose.

The auto cops will have a lonesome time while meandering the outlying districts.

Prosperity is hitting the postoffice and the mailsacks must work overtime.

All the bovine, ovine and porcine aristocrats will be here next week.

Rain is better than snow, because we are accustomed to it.

November will be a record month for rain.

How to Keep Well

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

(Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such service cannot be answered.

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OPERATION ON INFANT. 1.

IN the German-American Hospital in Chicago about the middle of November a child afflicted with certain deformities was born. One of the deformities was of a kind that is sometimes operated on with success. The obstetrician consulted the surgeon, and the surgeon declined to operate.

The decision came to the attention of the newspapers, whereupon there ensued a Nation-wide discussion of the right of a surgeon to refuse to operate on newly born defective children, and out of this there grew a discussion of the advisability of actively or passively terminating the lives of newly born infants who otherwise would necessarily be doomed to lives of unhappiness or worse.

Most of those who took part in the discussion had no thought of the facts in this particular case. Of those who discussed this case practically none knew the facts.

The child died five days after birth, and a Coroner's jury, composed of six physicians and surgeons of great renown, was impaneled. The verdict of this jury shows that the jury thought the child should have been operated on. This was their judgment. The attending surgeon and the attending gynecologist had a different opinion, which was their privilege. So long as it was their conscientious opinion, they could have been expected to advise the parents to have the child operated on. But the jury thought they should have asked for counsel, and if counsel had advised an operation they should have yielded their positions as attending men.

And now what are the facts disclosed by the autopsy? The child was born with the following defects: An imperforate anus, fusion of the kidneys, attachment of the skin of the shoulder to the right side of the head, absence of the right ear and right ear canal. With the exception of these deformities, every organ was properly developed and in proper position. The child was not a monster. It was not, nor would it have been, horrible to look upon.

The development of the brain was about as it should have been. There was nothing to indicate that the child would have been idiotic, or feeble-minded, or morally degenerate. Of course, it is not possible from autopsy findings on a newly born babe to tell much about what might have been the mental capacity or moral qualities of the child, had it matured.

The adhesion of the shoulder to the head was a matter of minor importance. The adhesion might have been loosened and the child made nearly normal in appearance at 1 month of age, or 1 year of age, or at any other time.

Fusion of the two kidneys is not a serious matter. Time and again fused kidneys have been discovered accidentally at autopsies on old men.

This, then, clears the field for discussion of the one major defect in this child, viz., imperforate anus and the possibility that operation would have saved his life.

Eczema on Baby.

C. W. H. writes: "What is the likely cause of eczema in a child of 10 months? Our baby has had it about nine months. What is the usual treatment and the diet?"

REPLY.

The child's diet is at fault. Generally the diet is too rich. The essential treatment is modification of the diet. Plenty of outdoor life and proper care of the skin are of some help. Ointments and applications may help a little.

Floating Kidney.

M. C. S. inquires: "1. Is a floating kidney due to any other cause than a strain? 2. Are the symptoms similar to the symptoms of gallstones?"

REPLY.

1. Floating kidney is a congenital condition. Movable kidney may result from injury (or strain). That, however, is not the most frequent cause. Loss of weight is a frequent cause. Lack of fat is a cause.

2. In those cases where the kidney at times kinks the ureter there results a colicky pain somewhat similar to that of gallstones. Neither the average case of movable nor the average case of floating kidney causes any symptoms.

Toast No Cancer Cause.

L. L., of New York, writes: "Will you inform me whether the constant use of toast can result in a cancer?"

REPLY.

No. From time to time some food faddist announces some one food is the cause of cancer. Meat, cabbage, tomatoes, flour and several other articles have been accused. There is no proof of any of these theories.

Olive Oil as a Medicine.

M. A. R. writes: 1. I would like to know what effect olive oil has on a person when taken three times daily; that is, three tablespoons a day. I am very thin and would like to get fat. 2. Kindly advise me what to do."

REPLY.

1. None.

2. Stop worrying. Be philosophical. Calm yourself. Sleep eight hours at least in a well-ventilated room. Eat as much nutritious food as you are now eating and in addition take a bowl of milk and crackers, or milk and rice and sugar twice a day.

Buttermilk and Sweet Milk.

Edith M. writes: "Kindly let me know if buttermilk is better than sweet milk to drink, and whether it makes blood."

REPLY.

It is rather more easily digested, otherwise it is not better. In common with all other nutritious, easily-digested foods it makes blood.

A Backward Child.

D. S. writes: "Will you kindly help out unfortunate parents? We have a little girl of 2½ years. She does not walk or talk, she hears well, she eats well, and looks good otherwise, but she does not understand much. Is there any hope for her to grow out of it? By the way, she never had any sickness. Can you tell us where to go with her?"

REPLY.

You are sensible in recognizing the condition of your child and in making an intelligent effort to improve things. The child may be feeble-minded or merely backward. She may be a mute, or she may be defective in some other way. You want first to know where the trouble is.

Boards of education in most large cities have a child study department. They are usually willing to examine such children. Go to your nearest school for information. In a few well-developed health departments there is a division for such cases as your child. If your school visit is fruitless, write to the health department. If your community is not well developed, I suggest that you call on the physician at your nearest insane asylum. The men at the institutions are trained in diagnosing all forms of mental disease, and they know what their communities have to offer in the way of help.

Meaning of "Boche."

PORTLAND, Nov. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please give meaning of the term "Boches," as applied by the French to the Germans in European war.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

The word is slang and is of uncertain origin and obscure in meaning. While perhaps more contemptuous, it probably is nearly equivalent to our own slang word "mut." The Literary Digest for November 6 prints some speculations as to its origin. One not there mentioned is that it is a French corruption of the German word "bock," meaning the goat.

JUDGES AND POLITICAL AMBITION

Precedents Cited in Support of Proposed Candidacy of Justice Hughes.

PENDLETON, Or., Nov. 27.—(To the Editor.)—The writer urged the nomination of Governor Hughes for the Presidency both in 1908 and 1912, and is of the opinion that had that gentleman been nominated in either of those years he would have been elected, the schism in the Republican party would have been avoided and the country would have escaped the period of depression through which it is passing. Still believing that Hughes is the man of the hour, and that patriotic duty requires that he respond to public demand for his service in the executive chair, permit me to answer briefly the curious but persistent argument that his position upon the Supreme bench of the United States precludes his candidacy.

Those who urge that fact against the man speak without knowledge of the history of the tribunal of which he is a member. John Jay while Chief Justice of the United States was a candidate for Governor of New York twice. He was defeated at the first election, at the second he was elected and resigned to accept the office. Oliver Ellsworth retired from the position of Chief Justice to accept a place upon the State Council of Connecticut. John Rutledge resigned from the same position to become Chief Justice of the State of South Carolina.

So much for the exalted station lauded as second in honor to the Presidency itself.

Among the associate justices, Levi Woodbury, at the time of his death, had been substantially agreed upon by the leaders of his party for the Presidential nomination. John A. Campbell resigned to follow the fortunes of the confederacy. David Davis resigned to accept election as United States Senator from the State of Illinois. John McLean was a candidate for President in the Free Soil convention, and was the leading competitor of Freemont in the first Republican convention. Salmon P. Chase's attitude is too well known for comment. Numerous associate justices have resigned for other than political reasons, among them being Benjamin R. Curtiss, who ranked with Marshall and Story, and is counted among the few men of commanding legal intellect in the history of that court.

It is folly to attempt to maintain that there is any halo about the heads of members of the Supreme Court, or that there is any sound reason why their position exempts them from other public service. Permit me to suggest that Oregon send a Hughes delegation to the next Republican National Convention, and place herself in a position to lead the Hughes movement to a successful conclusion.

STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

CHANGE IS SHORT OF SOCIALISM

But State Control by Belligerents May Create Problems for Us.

PORTLAND, Nov. 28.—(To the Editor.)—If reports are correct, the principal belligerent governments of Europe are enforcing a system of state control in economic matters. Also, if advices are correct, such control and regulation, maintained solely by the strong arm of the military power, has attained more drastic and far-reaching proportions than anything like it previously existent.

What is the object of this vast exercise of power by each of those nations? First, to preserve the full military strength of the nation at its height of efficiency and speed; second, and subordinate thereto, is to supply the civilian population with a minimum of the necessities of life.

It will be observed that this system requires a full supply of rations to each man in army or navy at all times. Also, that the second class, or civilians, must divide what is left, with due regard to conservation of supply, primarily to the military and secondarily to the civilian.

In some respects the scheme is akin to socialistic governmental regulation, insofar as it relates to curbing speculation, regulating prices and supply, furnishing employment for all able-bodied persons, etc. There, however, it stops, for your Socialist will have none of the military non-producer.

The central idea is that the great power of a government to regulate the individual, and the daily affairs of his life, stands out in bolder relief than any other examples to which the Socialist may point in the world's history.

Question of profound importance are thus thrust upon the world, and questions which America must in time solve. When peace comes, will not the people of each European country demand that all governmental regulation which they deem beneficial and which obtained during the war shall be continued in time of peace? Will not the people of America, viewing these examples, demand like things. Will they not demand income taxes and regulation which will, in their purview, bring about what they deem an equitable distribution of the product of labor? Is it not wise to foresee and deal with these things before the melting pot of America produces a dross which must be cast out? ROBERT C. WRIGHT.

Convict's Invention Hoax.

PORTLAND, Nov. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please state what has become of the Arizona convict, Myers, who was released some years ago that he might go to Washington and secure a patent on a device for drawing electricity from the air. I recall that he returned to the penitentiary in accordance with his promise, but I have seen no more about him or his invention.

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Myers confessed that his scheme for drawing electricity from the air was a hoax. It was worked by a concealed motor or batteries. The furlough or parole granted Myers by Governor Hunt, of Arizona, to go to Washington to secure a patent on his device was procured at the instance of Miss Kate Bernard, of Oklahoma, who went to Arizona at the time of the inauguration of Governor Hunt to give him primary lessons in humanitarianism in dealing with criminals.

Myers returned directly from Washington to Arizona in compliance with the term of his parole, but was not again incarcerated. He then went East and was next heard of in Louisiana, where he had been arrested for fraud.

Eugenic Marriage Law.

PORTLAND, Nov. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish in condensed form the law requiring a medical certificate in order to marry. READER.

Before any County Clerk may issue a marriage license a certificate, sworn to by a physician and made within 10 days of filing the same, must be filed showing that the male person thus seeking to enter the marriage relation is free from contagious or infectious venereal disease. A physician knowingly and wilfully making any false statement may be punished by revocation of license. The fee for examination is fixed at $2.50. County physicians are required to make the necessary examination, without charge, upon request of in indigent.

Women and Homesteads.

YAMHILL, Or., Nov. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Can any married woman, not the head of a family, take a homestead? ED BELLER.

A married woman is not accorded the privilege of homstead unless she is the head of a family through desertion of husband or his chronic illness.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian November 29, 1890.

New York—One of the stands at Eastern Park, Brooklyn, where the Yale-Princeton football game was played Thursday afternoon, fell, and about 50 were injured. Yale won the game, 32 to 0.

London—The Nationalists are divided between Parnell and Gladstone, Davitt says if Parnell retains leadership the cause is lost. Parnell has issued a manifesto, accusing the Gladstone party of breach of faith and he refuses to resign.

New York—It is evident the Jay Gould-Russell Sage party did not enjoy the farewell address of President Adams on his retiring as President of the Union Pacific. Mr. Sage, in an interview, makes pointed criticism of Mr. Adams' address.

Explorer H. M. Stanley says Senator Butler's plan to deport American negroes to Africa is practicable at least as there is a vast amount of land available in Africa.

James A. Herne and his "Hearts of Oak" company, suddenly closed their engagement at the Marquam Grand yesterday afternoon. Mr. Herne came before the curtain just as the audience was seated for the matinee and announced there would be no performance owing to financial disagreement among his manager, the theater manager and himself and company.

James R. Robb, pioneer, died at his residence in Kenworthy's addition Wednesday night.

The first game of football under Eastern college rules played on the Pacific Coast took place Thursday at the Bishop Scott Academy grounds, between the Academy and the Portland Football club. The Academy boys won, 8 to 0.

The line-ups were:

Portland.		B. S. A.
Schuyler	LE	Fiske
Wentworth	LT	Holt
McCrath	LG	Montgomery
Shipley	C	(Capt.) Gavin
Rees	RG	Overholt
Sparks	RT	H. Campbell
Jones	RE	H. Freeman
Lipman	Q	White
Mills (Capt.)	HB	M. Brooks
Carruthers	HB	H. Freeman
McDonald	FB	Ellsworth

Umpire, Scott Brooks; referee, Mark W. Gill.

The dedication of St. Mary's Home near Beaverton took place Thursday.

Omaha—A Bee special from the Rosebud Agency, says 50 young Indians are raiding the country near there, burning and otherwise destroying settlers' homes.

Guido has demonstrated himself to be the greatest Oregon horse that ever went out of the state. Guido's winnings, including that at Nashville, Saturday, total $17,550 for the season to date, exclusive of pool box and other bets. Mr. Perkins is his owner.

Half Century Ago

From The Oregonian of November 29, 1865.

The sale of gold and stocks made by New York City brokers during the year ended June 30 exceeded $6,000,000,000, yielding the Government a revenue of $3,600,000.

The New York Herald says that 24 states have ratified the amendment abolishing slavery.

The amount of legal tender notes now in circulation is said to be $678,126,126.

The largest gold nugget yet to be found in the Northwest has been picked up in the Blackfoot mines. Its value is about $4000.

Geenral Phil Sheridan, who was born in the County of Cavan, Ireland, is to be the grand centre of the Fenian Brotherhood. Sheridan has been incorrectly reported a native of Perry County, Ohio.

According to the census just completed, the population of Chicago is 178,539, as against 109,260 for the year 1860.

No fewer than 104,000 persons have left Marseilles up to September 29 on account of the cholera. This is more than three-seventh of the population. At Arles, when there were only 6000 inhabitants out of 25,000 left September 19, there were on that day 23 deaths from the disease.

During the last 10 or 12 days the telegraph wires have been broken, or thrown upon the ground, in innumerable places. Probably within the distance of 200 miles the line has been repaired by the operator in a dozen places. Between Monticello and Vancouver on Tuesday and Wednesday last 29 breaks were repaired. Between Vancouver and Portland 15 and farther south very many places occurring at short intervals required repairing, and now the line is down again.

Mount Hood First Ascended in 1857.

MEDFORD, Or., Nov. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Richard J. Grace's excellent article in The Sunday Oregonian, November 21, is worthy of credit, except that in his reference to the first ascent of Mount Hood he is completely at sea in saying, "The first human being to reach the summit of Mount Hood set foot on the peak August 4, 1854."

The party referred to was organized by T. J. Dryer, then owner and publisher of The Oregonian, who published a detailed account of the trip a few days later. Regardless of his positive statement that they reached the summit, it is not true. The ascent is carefully described, in that they crossed the White River Canyon and ascended by the long, dark ridge beyond, which, anyone at all familiar with the mountain, knows does not lead to the summit, but to the top of Steel's Cliff, from which point it is impossible to reach the summit without wings.

The fact is that the first party to attain the peak was composed of Henry L. Pittock, W. Lyman Chittenden, James G. Reardorff, William Buckley and Professor L. J. Powell, of Portland, who succeeded July 11, 1857.

WILL J. STEEL.

Error in Word.

SEAVIEW, Wash., Nov. 27.—(To the Editor.)—In a letter over my signature published November 26, entitled "Soul Will Return in Normal Body," an error appears. I am made to speak of "reincarnation ego." It should have read "reincarnating ego." Kindly make the correction. Under ordinary circumstances I would not care, but speaking theosophically the error is glaring.

N. H. BLOOMFIELD.

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He has an important message for you.

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Where is he? Right here before you.

The page boy is the voice of advertising speaking to you through the columns of this newspaper.

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