

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, January 8, 1916.

SELF HELP.

The Port of Astoria has under consideration a plan to establish a system of municipally-owned and operated steamboats which shall maintain direct service to the Upper Columbia River. The Port of Astoria Commission has taken the initiative in the enterprise and proposes that the question of establishing the transportation business as a public shall be submitted to the people at a special election.

The Columbia River is open to the traffic of all tributary cities and ports on equal terms; and Astoria is not commended for undertaking to solve the problem of the river. The people are to decide to solve the problem of the river. We do not know that river transportation by publicly-owned boats is the best or the only solution; nor do we assume that Astoria is certain about the rate and traffic problems which have long confronted it. We do not know that river transportation by publicly-owned boats is the best or the only solution; nor do we assume that Astoria is certain about the rate and traffic problems which have long confronted it.

The Astoria papers carry a report of the port meeting at which this momentous decision was reached; and there was a most interesting and even profitable discussion. Yet something was said which it is to be presumed are not to be taken literally. The speaker, one speaker, said that he thought the Astoria plan application, now pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission, would be decided against that city, "because of outside influences lined up against us." That is a very grave charge, and it ought not to be made without some basis. Another speaker, at Astoria, who ought to know better than to indulge in mere childish spleen toward Portland, and the Oregonian, for no good reason. On the contrary, there ought to be grateful appreciation at Astoria—and doubtless there is among the large body of citizens who are not influenced by some talk—of the long battle waged by Portland for improvement of the whole river, particularly at its entrance. The direct appropriation by the Port of Portland of \$475,000 for the improvement is a fairly substantial testimonial to Portland's attitude toward the lower river.

PROSPERITY COMES AND CONTINUES.

If any person still doubt that the United States is now well advanced in the greatest era of prosperity the country has ever known, he has but to read Bradstreet's review of the year 1915 and forecast of the year 1916 in order to become convinced. This conservatively conservative agency tells of three great upward movements which, like water running upon ice, have carried the tide of prosperity far up the shore and which show no sign of recession.

Beginning with the business foreign demand for food and war material, the upward movement extended first to manufacture war munitions and then to purely domestic trade, which received its first stimulus from the great crops of the heavy foreign trade. This agricultural, industrial and commercial boom, which has ended unemployment, will surely continue until peace returns—an event which Bradstreet tells us "seems rather far distant." The one limit on our ability to sell will be our customers' ability to pay or to borrow. Should the war end, our industries would need readjustment in the matter of peace, but this would be accomplished by us as quickly as the war ended. The goods we have produced in new markets, which Bradstreet does not credit to Bradstreet. At the outset, we should be busy furnishing materials to restock old-world factories and to rebuild ruined cities. As we settle down to the competitive struggle for the world's trade.

Our gains in the past year are measured by the profits on two enormous crops sold at high prices, by the import of \$100,000,000 in gold, by the repurchase of \$1,000,000 in securities and by the sale of nearly \$1,000,000,000 abroad. In these facts, Bradstreet says, "we have a basis for prosperity estimated sufficient in earlier days for a widespread boom." Our greatest danger now is unbridled speculation, symptoms of which are to be found in a speculative stock market and abundant, cheap money.

Property came last to the North Pacific Coast's chief industry—lumber—but it rests largely with us to make it stay with us longest. That industry needs reorganization on a sound basis. It has been too long in such a manner as to utilize all its products. It also needs to educate the consumer as to the use of lumber, for he has been misled by the methods which lumbermen have neglected.

The Pacific Coast's second industry, which has prospered because it was not that property will remain with it long after the war, for peace will release a new tide of immigration which will rest most strongly to this

section. By wise direction the newcomers may be employed in developing our back country and thus in building broad and firm foundations of a prosperity which will outlast all temporary influences of war.

HUMANITY'S RIGHTS.

Mr. Bryan loves the whole world so much that it is hard for him to think that the whole world does not love him. But whether it does or not, he thinks the Nation ought to live up to its ideal and set a high example, and love its kind as it loves itself.

The Bryan idea of keeping out of international trouble is to deny that it exists or to run from it. Let Americans who want to travel on British or German steamers stay at home, he says, and they will not get killed. It is a simple idea, but it is the way to serve humanity? Humanity—the welfare of all mankind—is very much in the mind of Mr. Bryan.

The United States is the greatest neutral power by far the greatest. The public law of the nation has long guaranteed the lives of all non-combatants, and the whole tendency of modern warfare has been to confine hostilities to armies and navies, and to spare all others who attend to their own business.

Any prohibition by the United States of the right of its citizens to travel on the sea, on vessels of all nations engaged in passenger service and in trade, is a definite abandonment of the principle that neutrals and non-combatants must be safeguarded. It is an acknowledgment—negative but not less explicit—that the belligerent must be left free to kill or drown anybody who crosses his path. Shall the seas be abandoned to the warring navies? Shall the public highways be given up to nations at war? Are belligerent rights supreme and neutral rights no longer asserting?

Is mankind to be served—mankind of the present and the future—by conceding that it has no rights any combatant is bound to respect?

THE PROPOSED THIRD SEX.

The world's supply of men has been inadequate to meet the demand for husbands these many centuries. The whole human family is suffering from a shortage of men, particularly of desirable men, is being reduced by veritable millions, who on earth will become of woman—especially the domesticated marrying sort of woman? Will she abandon her dreams of romance or turn to polygamy, content to share a man with five or six other women rather than have no man at all?

Biologists and observers have been pondering over this grave matter for some months, and women have been doing a considerable share of the fretting, especially single women. But now a solution is foreseen by Professor Emily Egle Balch, of Wellesley. Addressing the American Sociological Society the other day, Professor Balch pictured the tattered remnants of Europe's manhood returning home, not only with important numbers but with five or six other women, but with a scarcity value.

What a vain creature he would be. How unapproachable and impossible as a husband. Would it be safe to marry such a man? Would he not be wholly unwholesome to the girl? The exaggerated idea of his importance, value and worth as a husband? So Professor Balch turns from the picture in apparent dismay. If not disgust, and predicts another result that is forming under our eyes—a new sex, inferior human.

There, now. Will not that possibility bring strutting man to his senses? A third sex? With rather well-defined recollection of the agony that two sexes have brought upon the world, what sort of picture must we see of a world with three sexes in the field? A third sex that is neither fish nor fowl; animal, mineral nor vegetable. A third sex concerned only in feeding and housing itself without any foolish notions regarding man, romance, war and the other sources of grief on earth.

Wonderful possibilities here. If belligerent man can only be reduced to a hopeless minority what new era might not this third sex bring into the world. No war, no strife. Quiet industry and unemotional contentment. A world where the glory of the battlefield is replaced by the glory of the biological sciences.

A STEP TOWARD A BUDGET.

Congress against its will is making progress toward adoption of the budget system in raising revenue and making appropriations. One of the most decisive steps which it took in that direction was the lump sum appropriation made in the last two sessions for rivers and harbors. Congress did not intend to move in the direction of the budget system, for it has always denounced that system as unconstitutional, as an invasion of its sacred prerogative and as tending to aggrandize the executive power. But Congress found a stone wall between it and the money which its several members desired for expenditure in their districts. It could not knock down or climb over the wall; it could only go around it. The only way around was the lump sum appropriation, to be expended according to the judgment of the Army engineers.

Appropriations for rivers and harbors had not previously been voted except in the form of a lump sum, and the cost of executing it and the money available. They had been voted according to the ability of each member to get an item for his own district included in the bill. The members of the rivers and harbors committee, who prepared the bill, provided for their own districts first and then included enough items for other members to insure a majority for the measure. The House then voted for the whole bill blindfolded; the members dared not vote on each item in the bill, for the whole bill broke up the combination, and some of them would have got nothing. The Senate repeated the operation, cutting out a few items and substituting some new ones. No new items were included unless Army engineers had surveyed and recommended them, but from the outset the members were to reverse themselves by substituting a favorable for an adverse report.

This system broke down when some marplot members began making speeches in which they analyzed the items in detail and exposed their ineptitude. The marplot conduct was begun in the House by Representatives Fear of Wisconsin and Callaway of Texas, but they were stopped by the rules limiting debate. It was renewed in the Senate by Senators Burton, Kenyon and a few others, who were subject to such limitations. They continued their exposure until seeking a compromise on lump appropriations was made at the last two sessions. Thus Congress was driven against its

will to depart from the spoils system two centuries after it was abandoned in England.

There is good cause to hope that, having made this beginning, Congress will gradually be coerced or driven into general adoption of the new policy. The present time is propitious. There is less money to spend than usual, new taxes are proposed and prepared, and the demands on the sum available. An election is near and Congressmen will be chary about going before the people with a pork-barrel record. The money allowed has been well spent, chiefly on continuing work that was already under way, and opposition in general has been stifled by the elimination of scandalously bad schemes. Congress may recognize the wisdom of simply fixing the sum of money allotted to each bureau and letting the heads of the bureau apportion it.

THE AMBER PERIL.

Richmond Pearson Hobson, who is bound that the American people shall be confronted by some horrible calamity, has abandoned the pelican peril in favor of a more terrifying danger which he maintains is hard upon us. We are, slowly but surely drinking ourselves to death and unless we quit it the country will go straight to perdition. It is up to the Nation to become sober or perish, he tells us, adding that the same rule applies to the whole human race.

Mr. Hobson has killed every day by the Demon Rum, Mr. Hobson calculates, and in the light of this slaughter he views the conflict in Europe with equanimity.

In fact, Russia is really to be congratulated for her war, while England is infinitely better off. For, while some millions of men have been killed, the inhibitions against strong drink which have resulted from the war must save more lives in the end than could be saved by any other means. Thus, so far as it tends toward prohibition, the war is a boon rather than a curse to the family.

It might be argued that Mr. Hobson underestimates the virtues of the American people, as well as of the whole human family, in assuming that the whole world is destined to throttle itself. It might be pointed out that people turn on liquor after long experience with the stuff. The older races usually are moderate drinkers, even as the uncivilized drinker immediately. The American drinker, John Barleycorn, never got along together in peace and safety. But with time and experience even the Indian came to know the danger that lurked in the bottle. The race is nothing if not adjustable to conditions here on earth. Man is not a creature of fixed habits, but surely, if liquor interferes with his business and with his happiness, he stifles the demon unless he belongs to that small element which comes under the classification of "unfit." In that event the demon stifles him and the incident closes.

Never before was there such a widespread recognition of the evil in liquor. Never were so many people putting it out of their lives forever. Never were so many states and so many governments restricting its use by judicious legislation. The grip of John Barleycorn has been broken. Man is learning that alcohol and high efficiency do not go hand in hand; that liquor and happiness are deadly enemies rather than fond allies. The temperance movement is never brighter, the course of rum never rougher. Which goes to show that Mr. Hobson is unduly excited over the welfare of the family once more; even as in the days when he had us in daily terror of an Oriental invasion.

A VICTORY THAT WAS ALMOST WON.

The story of the allied attack on the Dardanelles is a story of "almost" and "might have been." That is the conclusion to be drawn from General Sir Ian Hamilton's final report.

When the first day's battle at Suvla Bay in August had left the Turks defeated and exhausted, the British and the French, with the British, the latter needed one more push to carry them over the summit of the ridge which commands the straits. When General Stopford, the corps commander, ordered his divisional commanders to make a dash for the "untenable" position, he believed themselves unable to move and "their objections overbore the corps commander's resolution." He ordered them not to make frontal attacks on entrenched positions and therein, says Hamilton, "lies the root of our failure to make the final dash." Lack of water restrained Hamilton from throwing his reserves into the battle, for the men at Anzac, who fought all day in a blazing sun on bare slopes, were reduced to a pail of water. They were reduced to a pail of water. They were reduced to a pail of water.

There is nonsense in asking citizens of foreign birth to repudiate allegiance to the United States. If it means anything, once is enough.

Even the New Haven Railroad is beginning to make money since it escaped from the high financiers' clutches.

The possession of all that easy money will lead to arrest of the bandit who robbed the Sunset mailcar.

By sharing its profits with employees, the steel trust passes prosperity around and prevents strikes.

How many appreciate the good work of the lettercarrier, making his rounds through snow and slush?

The acme of hard luck is to be frozen in the Middle Columbia and only logskid aboard.

Vesuvius gets into the war game by throwing Jack Johnsons around Naples.

A man need not slide into a soft-drink place through a cigar store.

Put out food for the songbirds. The sparrows will forage for theirs.

The last stand of the Washington wets ended in a rout.

The streetcars are kind to keep the roads open for the jitneys.

How easy it is to keep one fond resolution made January 1.

St. Helena is acquiring fame as a shipbuilding point.

The Ford peace party stayed put last night.

The blue law will keep in cold storage.

The President's wife was "it" last night.

line of defense. Had the allies placed only enough men on the western front to hold the line and crowded them to the Straits, they might with ease have won through to Constantinople, forced the Turk to sue for peace and deprived Germany of the aid of 1,000,000 as fine fighting men as there are in the world. They might have forced even Bulgaria into different behavior and won Greece and Rumania over to their cause. They might thus have created a diversion which would have rendered the Teuton drive through Galicia and Poland abortive. They neglected to force the weak point and hammered away at the strong point. They created an impression of impotence on the hesitant lesser states and threw away their opportunity.

Even had they given Hamilton the 50,000 men he asked for in August, they would have had the credit of a victory which would have been a mere change he described. Had they won, victory at Constantinople would have opened the German capture of Warsaw and would have had such a deep moral effect in the Balkans that all the subsequent disasters might have been averted. The British had the credit of a victory which would have been a mere change he described. Had they won, victory at Constantinople would have opened the German capture of Warsaw and would have had such a deep moral effect in the Balkans that all the subsequent disasters might have been averted.

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The idea has been advanced by prominent penologists that all our prisons should be made into military camps in order to obviate many difficulties that arise in securing requisitions and the necessity of one state supporting the cost of another state's prisoners. Leaving out the odd days, and bringing the calculation to the beginning of the new year, the total ages of the 10 states the sum of 572 years and 9 months.

Our parents died years ago. Francis M., the father, in 1858, and Julia, the mother, in 1878. Their family is of the seventh generation, American born, and are descended from Thomas Skillman, who came to America in 1649.

History tells us that the King of England gave to his brother, the Duke of York, the Dutch province of New Amsterdam; the latter provided a small fleet of three ships, loaded them with soldiers, marines and various paraphernalia, and sailed for the state of New York. The expedition descended upon the unsuspecting Dutch and gobbled them up. The province was then known as New York. Thomas Skillman, above named, was a British soldier, under Governor Nicholson, who commanded the expedition made by the British in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and coming down to the Civil War, let me add an additional challenge.

The elder four brothers above named served in the Civil War, three enlisting in the Third Minnesota Infantry, and one in the Second Minnesota Cavalry. Their total service aggregated 13 years and one month. The first husband of Mrs. Sturtevant, James Wilcox, died in the service just prior to the expiration of his period of enlistment. The husband of Sallie Lont was in the service, survived it, and died some two years ago.

Doubtless there are other families which equal this record, and I would like to hear from them.

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Eye-Witness Reports Deceptive.

IONE, Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—I noticed in an editorial in The Oregonian January 4, under the caption, "Mr. Ford's Discovery," where he returns from his European peace mission a very misleading man. The Oregonian goes on to say:

"Perhaps Mr. Ford believed, when he conceived the peace mission and its slogan, 'The peace is at hand,' that this was his intention. If so, he might really have learned of his error with some of the German soldiers who were taken to Germany to indicate that the German was the human ruler here. It is not supported by the people."

Well, this statement of yours is rather astonishing, in view of the fact that Mr. Ford is the oldest of the dispatches from England shortly after the war broke out, wherein the English officers claimed that the German soldiers were to be taken to Germany to indicate that the German was the human ruler here. It is not supported by the people."

The Oregonian recently published a very good article from one of its field correspondents, in which it was pointed out, in effect, that while authentic incidents of malicious split and cowardice may have been published, they have no real significance. Among five or six million men of any race or nationality some cravens or cowards are bound to exist. It would not be surprising that in every army in Europe it has been found necessary occasionally to drive forward small squads of men by force or threats. It is quite conceivable that the English officers, to whom the correspondent referred, told the truth, but that they magnified the importance of isolated incidents. It has been written, truthfully, no doubt, that the men in the trenches were not so brave as the moralists, equipment and treatment of opposing forces by what they see themselves. Yet they are witnesses to but an infinitesimal part of a conflict that extends over hundreds of miles of front. As a matter of fact a person in America who reads carefully and intelligently gets a better perspective of the "war and the spirit of the war" than the ordinary man at the front.

Poetry.

The two were out strolling
And he, with eyes rolling
Over land, over rolling sea,
Said: "Face all right—
"Oh, what verse I could write!"
"But you don't know poetry," said she.

"See those birds! See those ships!
Voyagers all, making trips!
See those clouds chasing clouds, ever free,
Feel them breeze! Smell that air!
Lots of poetry there—"
"But you don't know poetry," said she.

"Of the sky I could write,
Of the sea—gleaming bright—
Of flowers, sweet-smelling," said he.

As he gazed far and wide:
But the girl at his side—
"You don't know poetry," said she.

"I am tired," he said,
And the girl then led
To a mossy bank under a tree:
As his arm round her slips
Toward a meeting of lips—
"Oh, you do know poetry," says she.

F. P. WILLIAMS.

Voters' Qualifications.

MOUNT ANGEL, Or., Jan. 4.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian, in its issue of January 4, has published an article on the subject of the qualifications of voters in America in favor of woman suffrage.

(2) Can they do so after taking their first papers?

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MILITARY TRAINING IN PRISONS

Writer Suggests That Inmates Be Converted Into Reserve Force.

PORTLAND, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Apropos of the difficulty which is being experienced in evolving a feasible plan of enlarging our Army and affording a general knowledge of military tactics, it might be timely to consider the advisability of introducing military training into our penal institutions.

Napoleon, in some of his campaigns, used the prisoners of France to good advantage, and prisoners were used in the Crimean War. It is unquestionably true that the discipline and drill of military training would be of great benefit to that portion of our population that so sadly needs to learn self-control, and instead of hanging men, we might keep them in readiness to defend the country, should the need arise.

Our permanent prison population easily averages 100,000 males. If these men were compelled to take a course of military training, a complete record could be kept of their whereabouts at the expiration of their term, under our parole law and indeterminate sentence, and we would soon have a force that could be available at short notice for defense. This force would be most efficient, for we have many capable and husky men in our prisons. And the 4000 women could be used to reinforce our Red Cross force.

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Delegates Must Pay Own Way.

CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—In your editorial, "New Abundance in Our Land," you refer to the benevolent provisions of the original Presidential primary law have been repealed. I do not see where this provision was repealed. The law of 1911, which will reimburse the delegates to the different conventions, or make an appropriation made by the legislature of 1913 for that purpose? The Oregon Blue Book gives an appropriation of \$249,117 for 1913-14.

Portland lawyers who have compared the new law with the old quite generally concur in the opinion that the provision for payment of delegates is repealed, although the repeal is not in specific terms.

JOHN J. WILSON.

Reform That Is Reform.

Baker, Or., Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Since there is so much reform in the air, let us see what reform is. Close the cigar stands on Sunday, close the candy stores on Sunday, close the news stands on Sunday; close picture shows on Sunday; close theaters on Sunday; stop boot-blacks on Sunday; stop newspapers on Sunday; stop streetcars on Sunday; stop baseball on Sunday; stop automobile on Sunday.

For goodness' sake, if we are going to reform, let us do it right. I think the newspapers, or at least most of the yellow journals, are to blame for this present condition by trying to lead us to what they think is a popular wave, whereas the people have had about reform enough for the present.

If they want reform so badly why not go the limit and make "blue laws" into effect?

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For goodness' sake, if we are going to reform, let us do it right. I think the newspapers, or at least most of the yellow journals, are to blame for this present condition by trying to lead us to what they think is a popular wave, whereas the people have had about reform enough for the present.

If they want reform so badly why not go the limit and make "blue laws" into effect?

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SKILLMAN FAMILY BEATS RECORD

Total Age of Living Brothers and Sisters, All in West, is 672 Years.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian, December 21, 1915, was a challenge by the Meath family of Chicago on its longevity record. The ten sons and daughters of the Meath family had an age total of 592 years.

There are others, however, and I submit the following:

To Francis Martin Skillman, born 1812, and his wife, Julia A. Skillman, nee Chapman, born 1815, there were born 11 children, of whom 10 are now living. Their names, dates of birth, residence, occupation, etc., are as follows:

Evander Skillman, born May 12, 1838, merchant, miller and rancher, Big Timber, Mont.; Elsie S. Sturtevant, February 1840, Portland, Or.; 254 East Twenty-fourth street, North; Milton Skillman, March 4, 1842, miller and farmer, Clackamas, Or.; Frank J. Skillman, March 1844, ranch near Oregon City; Phil Skillman, October 27, 1845, lawyer, now Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of Oregon; Thos. Sturtevant, June 18, 1847, now resides with his brother, Milton, near Clackamas; William Skillman, December 1848, merchant of Los Angeles, now residing with his sister, Mrs. Sturtevant, in Portland; Charles N. Skillman, April 14, 1855, in real estate business, Big Timber, Mont.; James H. Skillman, September 17, 1859, and Mrs. Nellie E. Merrick, May 12, 1861, now residing with their sister, Mrs. Sturtevant, in Portland.

Leaving out the odd days, and bringing the calculation to the beginning of the new year, the total ages of the 10 states the sum of 572 years and 9 months.

Our parents died years ago. Francis M., the father, in 1858, and Julia, the mother, in 1878. Their family is of the seventh generation, American born, and are descended from Thomas Skillman, who came to America in 1649.

History tells us that the King of England gave to his brother, the Duke of York, the Dutch province of New Amsterdam; the latter provided a small fleet of three ships, loaded them with soldiers, marines and various paraphernalia, and sailed for the state of New York. The expedition descended upon the unsuspecting Dutch and gobbled them up. The province was then known as New York. Thomas Skillman, above named, was a British soldier, under Governor Nicholson, who commanded the expedition made by the British in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and coming down to the Civil War, let me add an additional challenge.

The elder four brothers above named served in the Civil War, three enlisting in the Third Minnesota Infantry, and one in the Second Minnesota Cavalry. Their total service aggregated 13 years and one month. The first husband of Mrs. Sturtevant, James Wilcox, died in the service just prior to the expiration of his period of enlistment. The husband of Sallie Lont was in the service, survived it, and died some two years ago.

Doubtless there are other families which equal this record, and I would like to hear from them.

PHIL SKILLMAN.

Delegates Must Pay Own Way.

CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—In your editorial, "New Abundance in Our Land," you refer to the benevolent provisions of the original Presidential primary law have been repealed. I do not see where this provision was repealed. The law of 1911, which will