The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1916.

STRANGE APPOINTMENT.

The country will be amazed at President Wilson's appointment of Louis D. Brandeis to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Here is a position calling for high qualities of impartiality and poise, and the ripe experience and sound judgment of a well-balanced and well-stored mind. It is no place for agitators, or partisans, or warped prosecutors or special pleaders. It ought not to be given as the reward of political service, nor as a sop to particular interests.

It may be conceded that Mr. Brandeis is a remarkable man, who has an instinct to serve the under-dog and the courage to oppose the most powerful beneficiaries of privilege. Let us concede that, and let us forget that he took a questionable part in the campaign upon Secretary Ballinger, which was notable chiefly for its maximum of denunciation and for its minimum of facts. It still remains that Brandeis is an advocate and not a judge. How can he weigh dispassionately the case of any concern, or aggregation which he has fought, and how can he look without sympathy upon any cause which he has supported? Can a man whose method is contentious and whose spirit is intolerant become in a day, or at all, a new being? We think not.

What explanation can the President make to the American bar for ignoring the merits of many eminent lawyers and judges? What explanation to the American people for action that violates the best traditions of the Supreme Court?

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

There is much to praise and little to condemn about President Wilson's speech at New York in favor of military preparedness. With all the ardor of a new convert—a year ago he pronounced remote the dangers on which he now dwells—he tells us that we need 500,000 trained reserves behind our regular Army. We need military training in colleges and industrial schools, a stronger regular Army and National guard, because "we must protect our rights as a Nation and the rights of our citizens in America and outside of it." Mr. Bryan, his former Secretary of State, must surely have been in his mind when he said that "we live in a world which we cannot think into a different condition from that which actually exists." The scoffing provoked by his phrase "too proud to fight" seems to have rankled, for he now says he always accepts an invitation to fight.

His words and the sentiments and opinions they express are admirable so far as they relate to the duty of preparedness. The most serious criticism we have to make is that he has not translated those sentiments and opinions into action when occasion required. Had he given the impression at the outset of his Administration that he would never decline an invitation to fight, there is good reason to believe that many Americans who lie dead in Mexico would now be alive, that Mexico would be at peace, and that the Lusitania's passengers would not be in their graves. All of these things might have been had the President not permited the impression to prevail that he would decline to fight; they might have been brought about without a fight, simply by creating the contrary impression that certain offenses against the United States meant war.

Mr. Wilson's defense of his Mexican policy, however, shows that he does not yet realize all of his errors. The United States should not shirk an obvious duty, such as the protection of its citizens and the maintenance of its rights in Mexico, through fear of South America's distrust of our good intentions. We have twice proved our good faith by making Cuba independent. Had we pacified Mexico as we pacified Cuba and had we then withdrawn and left Mexico to govern herself, that distressful country might now have been at peace and we should have established a far stronger claim on the confidence of Latin America than we can ever establish by shirking our duty lest our motives be misconstrued.

The President's awakening to the need of adequate defense is welcome, late though it is, and The Oregonian indorses the declaration of Representative Mann that party considerations should be eliminated in discussion of a matter of such supreme importance to the Nation. Men of all parties should unite in devising means to make the Nation strong against any possible enemy. The unfortunate feature about Mr. Wilson's late conversion is that he has thrown his own party into confusion and doubt by having started it on the opposite course and then given the order: "Right about face." His efforts are largely nullified by the division which has resulted and it has become incumbent on Republicans to forget their party and to remember only their country by supplying the strength which he has sacrificed through changing front.

TOURIST TRAVEL.

Many persons now believe that as soon as the war is over will come such a rush to Europe as was never seen before. People of all ranks in life will want to see the battlefields as soon as possible after hostilities cease and before they are changed back into farms and gardens. The ruins brought about by the armies will attract people from every section of the world.

Edward A. Filene, a philanthropist and world traveler, of Boston, a gentleman who recently visited Portland and the Columbia River, is one who believes the European rush when hostilities cease will be far greater than any ever known from this country, and that the grand stampede will last several years.

Mr. Filene suggests that everything possible ought to be done at once to interest the people of the East in this section. He was particularly sanguine that if the story of the wonders of the Highway could be sent broadcast Oregon would get a full share of sightseers as soon as the weather became propitious.

Already steps have been taken to gain as much publicity as possible in the short time at command. One of the best advertisements to be had will be the discussion of these matters before the National Chamber of Commerce at its forthcoming annual meeting in Washington, D. C. The Portland Chamber of Commerce, being one of the most important in the country, will have its full share of time, and the beauties of Oregon, particularly of the new Highway, will be given great publicity.

During the meeting the wonderful colored pictures that Mr. Lancaster has shown will be exhibited in the parlor of the Willard Hotel. These pictures will undoubtedly attract a great deal of attention, for even in this age of wonderful pictures there are none finer to be found anywhere than these. There is approaching somewhat of a test of American good sense. Whether American National wonders and American achievements for lasting good can pull hard enough to counterbalance morbid curiosity will be ascertained.

FINDING THE RIGHT MAN.

The Oregonian a week or so ago suggested that the new president of the Oregon Republican Club "ought to be a young, alert, independent, clear-thinking, plain-speaking and quick-acting man, not identified with factions and not to be frightened by hostile influences." The Oregonian sought thus to discribe an ideal leader, for it admitted that it "did not know his name." But now that John McCourt has been elected president of the club the discovery has been made by some of our Argus-eyed contemporaries that Mr. McCourt was The Oregonian's candidate. They are to be congratulated upon their rare perspicacity. The revelation is not only complimentary to Mr. McCourt, to the Republican Club and to The Oregonian, but it is doubtless highly interesting to the public. It appears to be agreed everywhere that Mr. McCourt is young (comparatively), alert, independent, clear-thinking, plain-speaking and quick-acting and that he is not identified with faction and not to be frightened by hostile influences.

But of course the selection of Mr. McCourt was made by the club itself, after a lively and healthy contest. He was the deliberate choice of nearly 700 men and women, and it is a remarkable fact that his election was acclaimed by all as a most fortunate result, for majority and minority were satisfied. The other officers were judiciously chosen, and the club starts out on its career with high promise of usefulness to its party and to the state.

The great stir among Republicans over the organization of the club and the spirited and wholly friendly contest over its organization are indicative of a mighty revival of sound party spirit and of a complete reunion of Progressives and Conservatives. It will doubtless be potent in the coming campaign. The familiar efforts at detraction by the old tactics of insinuation, suspicion and defamation are again being used by Democratic voices, but they will not avail. The club is not the instrument of an office-holding clique, and will not be. So it cannot qualify in the sense that the well-known Democratic club qualifies, for Democratic approval.

WHAT THEN?

The parity rate issue is squarely made. It is a question of equality of rates between Astoria and Puget Sound. That is the height, depth, breadth and length of it. It never can be coupled with the issue of securing lower rates for Portland as against Puget Sound, except with direct intent to defeat Astoria's just demands and preserve the status quo.—Evening Telegram.

The Oregonian does not desire to invite nor pursue controversy with its esteemed neighbor, nor to dislodge it from its monopoly in agitation of a question which involves a demand upon Portland to give up its pre-eminent position as an exporter of grain from the Pacific Northwest.

But it will, nevertheless, endeavor to set its contemporary straight in the strange notion it has that the matter of rates to Astoria and Puget Sound does not involve Portland. The Oregonian does not hesitate to say that Portland is directly and vitally involved. Will the Telegram stop the steady stream of its voluminous discussion of wholly irrelevant questions long enough to say why Portland is not concerned? If it is not concerned, whence the insistent demand that it concern itself?

The discussion will further be clarified if the newspaper and the gentlemen who are so vehemently calling for justice to the Lower Columbia River will deal frankly with Portland, and say what they think Portland's true course and position are. If the Lower Columbia procures rates on a parity with Puget Sound (which is now a parity with Portland), should or should not Portland then insist upon lower proportionate rates?

TOO MUCH NEGATION.

There are certain fundamental legal questions which must be settled conclusively before there will be consequential development of water powers under any form of Federal supervision or state control that may be devised. Whether the Government has the important authority assumed for it in the Ferris bill is a matter of doubt. From the point of view of either the man who favors enlargement of centralized authority at Washington in this regard or the one who advocates control of water powers by the people of the state, the intervention of Oregon in the Utah cases is proper and ought to be desired.

The main consideration in water-power legislation is encouragement of water-power development under proper public safeguards. There are some collateral issues, such as the right or the propriety of the Federal Government to constitute itself a profit-exacting landlord—a course heretofore unprecedented in America. There is also the issue raised in Oregon as to the ability of the people of the state intelligently to look after their own interests if given the opportunity. But in the main, encouragement of water-power development is the thing sought by legislation proposed and existing.

Unless the fundamental authority of the Government to enact existing or proposed legislation is established capital is bound to be reluctant to invest in water powers. Yet Governor Withycombe's wholly laudable efforts to have these questions clarified are condemned by the State Federation of Labor. The federation admits knowledge that "there are within the boundaries of this state many magnificent undeveloped water-power possibilities." Why are they not utilized? The state has a water-power code that permits development and the United States statutes provide a means for acquiring permits. Something stands in the way. What is it?

Here is a situation calling for intelligent, affirmative suggestion. It produces from the federation only an expression of suspicious alarm, and an attempt to obstruct a proceeding designed to lay the groundwork for substantial, constitutional relief. The federation could, to advantage, lean more toward constructive deeds and less toward prohibitions and criticism.

FREE FOR ALL.

Doubtless there are a number of Republicans who would like to go to the National convention as delegates in some other guise than that of mere messengers to carry a minority indorsement. The opportunity is presented under the construction placed upon the Presidential primary law by Attorney-General Brown.

The candidate for delegate who gets on the ballot by the petition method need not bind himself to follow a forced and meaningless expression of the voters. The candidate, however, who files no petition but offers a fee must pledge away his independence of thought and action.

There will be presented for consideration in the primaries the names of perhaps several aspirants for the Presidential nomination. But if the wishes of the men are observed the name of neither Elihu Root, Charles E. Hughes, William E. Borah nor Theodore Roosevelt will be printed on the Oregon ballot. Under such conditions it is inconceivable that the real choice of the Republicans of Oregon for the Presidential nomination can be expressed. The expression will be a preference for one of those whose names do appear, yet one of the others or all of the others may be considered by the convention, and at least two of them are more popular with Oregon Republicans than any other suggested candidates.

Likewise it is possible for the many Democrats, doubtless within our midst, who stand fearlessly and firmly for the single-term plank of the last Democratic platform, to have a voice in the primary. It is not probable that any name but President Wilson's will be printed on the Democratic ballot. Yet if some unwavering, unchangeable supporter of 1912 Democratic principles wants to run as a Bryan delegate the way is open.

Why should we not expect a rush of Democratic petition candidates for delegate? Oregon is famed for its independent thinkers, its fearless, unbossed constituencies. Who will be the first Democrat boldly to declare for Bryan, pacifism and the single term?

LET THE TRAINED MEN SPEAK.

One of the wisest recent utterances on the subject of preparedness is the address of Walter L. Fisher, ex-Secretary of the Interior, at the University of Chicago. It starts at the very bottom by asking us what we wish to defend, and it then takes up the question how best can we determine what means of defense we shall adopt.

We cannot decide either question until our minds are made up on the broad lines of international policy. Until the Spanish War we had three fairly well defined principles of foreign policy—to avoid foreign alliances, not to meddle in the affairs of Europe and not to tolerate European interference in America. Since that war we have been drawn into closer relations with all the rest of the world. We have acquired Hawaii and the Philippines and to that extent have become an Asiatic power; we have led the powers in establishing the open door policy in China; we have acquired Porto Rico and have become responsible for Cuba's good conduct; we have built the Panama Canal and have become supreme on the Isthmus; we have established protectorates over Santo Domingo and Haiti and have proposed a protectorate over Nicaragua; we have become dominant in the Caribbean Sea and have warned off Europe from that region and from Mexico; our relations with Europe have become more intimate through closer and more rapid communication. Do we wish to defend all these interests, to continue all these responsibilities? It is for us to decide and, having decided, to lift foreign policy out of the domain of party politics, pursue our adopted policy continuously and provide ourselves with the military means for its maintenance.

Hitherto our expert military and naval advisers have worked in the dark as to what we wish to defend. In its "statement of a proper military policy for the United States" the Army War College undertakes to define "our abiding National policies," though that is no part of its functions. Having been asked to lay down a military policy, it has found necessary, in the absence of proper information, the assumption of a foreign policy as a basis on which to work. The official who sought its expert military advice should have furnished that basis. The General Board of the Navy has worked equally in the dark, and in its report for 1914 defined a foreign policy, which was not its function, as a preliminary to the definition of a naval policy, which is. It is the part of the people in the forum of public discussion and through their representatives in Congress to decide upon the foreign policy which they shall uphold, upon the territory, rights and interests which they will defend. The political heads of the War and Navy departments should then turn to the trained experts in those departments and say in effect: "This is what we have to do. How large and what kind of an army and navy do we need to do it?"

We should then set our trained men in these departments free to express their opinions and to give their advice. The Nation has gone to great expense in training these men as experts in their lines, that they may be gratified to advise it and to fight for it. It should use their skill by following their advice and by giving them proper weapons with which to fight. We have been pursuing the precisely opposite course. Army and Navy men are forbidden to write for publication. The boards of trained men in the War and Navy departments have been asked by the respective Secretaries to recommend military and naval policies, but until this year their reports have been treated as confidential, been suppressed and their advice has been ignored. When any of their opinions have by some happy chance become public the whole pack of pacifists has howled "Militarist" at them and has accused them of being tools of "the armament trust," of trying to make work for themselves by saddling the Nation with a huge army and navy and of desiring war that they may win glory and promotion.

We do not thus treat experts in other departments of the Government. When General Goethals told us how to build the Panama Canal, we told him to go ahead and build it that way. He built it and made a good job of it. We did not accuse him of trying to make fat contracts for the cement and machinery manufacturers. When we wish to know whether a river or harbor should be improved and how, we ask the engineers, and pretty generally follow their advice without aspersion on their motives. When we have a delicate job of diplomacy to do, we turn it over to the trained men of the State Department and of our foreign embassies, and we trust to their ability and integrity. When we desire information about agriculture, forestry, foreign commerce, finance, reclamation, we seek it from the trained men in those several departments, and we generally follow their advice; we do not treat them as scoundrels who plot our ruin, moral and material.

Common sense requires that we announce the foreign policy which we require our Army and Navy to defend. Both common sense and common fairness require that we seek, and treat with the respect due to trained knowledge, the advice of our Army and Navy officers on how to defend that policy and that we follow their advice in preference to that of a band of windy sentimentalists who go careering around the world on peace ships.

RAILROADS IN STRAIT WAISTCOAT.

Railroad earnings continue to increase month by month, the gross increase for December, 1915, being $20,778,954, which is the largest on record for that month. But the total gross earnings for last December are only slightly over those for December, 1906, when swelling traffic reached its culmination. Thus the railroad business has lost ten years' growth and has now recovered in one year the losses of the two preceding years.

But the percentage of profit is not equal to that of 1906, for in the last eight years the railroads have invested $4,500,000,000 in added facilities and have added only $8,550,000 to their income since 1907, though in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, they hauled 51,708,500,000 more tons of freight and 7,539,943,479 more passengers one mile than in 1907. With an increase of 25 per cent in investment and 20 per cent in traffic, income has increased only 1 per cent.

The business of the country is paying for the stunting of growth in the railroad business by finding traffic facilities inadequate as soon as business begins to move in full volume. The result is a freight blockade which checks the expansion of business. Had the normal increase in earnings continued year by year since 1906, railroad facilities could have grown step by step with the needs of business. We now discover that business is in the position of a man who tries to expand his chest fully in a suit of clothes that is several sizes too small. He cannot do it; he feels as though he were in a strait waistcoat. Business cannot grow beyond the capacity of the transportation system to carry its raw material and products; it is in a railroad strait waistcoat.

This is a good time, with a view to the interests of the Nation's industries and commerce, to let the railroads alone and to give them a chance to get into that position of financial ease where they can spend surplus earnings in expanding facilities and can borrow money for that purpose. They can only get the surplus and the credit out of their traffic. All we need to do to secure ourselves against abuses is to see that the surplus and the credit are rightly used. Then more and better railroads will help us to do more business.

There is a man suing for a decree who sets up real grievances. It was five months before he discovered she wore "store" teeth; two months later he found her hair could hang on the back of a chair as well as on her head. Later still he discovered she was 40 instead of the alleged 26. Further, deponent sayeth not. He needs to consult an oculist before his next venture.

At last the Government has been able to sell something at a profit—the old collier Justin. That profit will partly compensate for the millions lost in selling transports which had been bought at fancy prices for the Spanish war.

Superstitious colored folk in the South—and that embraces about all of them—will see the hand of Providence in the sudden death of the warden at Raleigh as he finished the electrocution of two negroes.

When Colonel House comes home he should be in a position to give President Wilson the only first-hand view of the diplomatic and military situation in all the belligerent countries.

Union men who insist that delegates in a union conference should be clad in union-made clothing, showing the label, are right in opposing the men who put the "con" in consistency.

Manufacturers of munitions in this country will sell to Germany any time she can take the goods. All she need do is to clear the seas of British supremacy. The rest will be easy.

McCredie's opinion of the Sunday-morning game is the same as that of thousands of believers in the sport. It is not worth the waste of time and material.

Another medieval torture has passed into history with the completion of the Willamette Pacific Railroad, namely, a stage trip to Coos Bay in the wet season.

Considering all the prison records of Percy Campbell, it is no wonder he had lapses of memory. He ought to study mnemonics during his next term.

Since doctors may prescribe cocktails for their guests at dinner in dry states, their popularity as hosts will be much enhanced.

There are many walks in the residential districts not clear of snow and ice. They are dangerous.

Bob must be a valuable fox terrier to be worth the exertions of five men in saving his life.

Wilson surprised all in filling the Supreme Court bench with a Boston lawyer.

Booze to some burglars is as valuable as jewels to others.

BIG MONEY MADE ON LOCAL MAIL

Postal Cost for City Deliveries Is Only One-Fourth Cent.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—A matter of vital interest to every user of letter postage in this community is the movement now being pressed in Congress for a lowering of the postage rate on locally delivered letters from 2 cents to 1 cent.

At the present time the two-cent rate is applicable to all sealed letters, whether addressed to a neighbor or to a business acquaintance 3000 miles away. We have been entitled to a one-cent letter postage throughout the entire country for some years, and we certainly are entitled at the present time to a one-cent letter rate for locally delivered leters.

It is estimated by experts at Washington that the locally delivered letter costs the Government only one-fourth of a cent each to handle. At the resent time we are paying two cents apiece, so that the Government is making one and three-fourths cents on every letter which has its origin and delivery here.

The only expense is the handling of the letter in our local office, which has been provided for this express purpose among others. It involves no railway or steamship transportation, and the Government in delivering such letters at one cent apiece would even then make an enormous profit.

The National One Cent Letter Postage Association, with headquarters in Cleveland, has been drawing attention for some time to the disparity in rates now charged on first-class letter mail. Over 20 bills calling for one-cent local postage have been introduced in Congress by eminent Senators and Representatives, and users of letter postage throughout the country are a unit in demanding that their representatives at Washington support this movement.

This seems an opportune time to correct this inequality in postal rates. It is estimated by Government officials that the increased mail business created by the lower postage rate will more than meet the difference in cost. There is a strong sentiment for the change throughout the entire country, and it seems only reasonable that we in this community should do our part toward helping secure this very important reform.

H. J. FRANK.
President and Manager, Blumauer-Frank Drug Co.

BABES BORN TO HOPELESS LIVES

Woman Cites Instances Where Large Families Harm.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—One only had to read your article on birth control to know that a man had been the author; that he did not know what birth control means.

I know a family with four small children. The father has been out of work most of the time for three years. They are hungry and miserable. A new baby is coming in March, and there is nothing for it to wear, and the mother cannot have a nurse or proper attention.

The last baby came the same way, and the neighbors gave a few clothes for it. The children go to school, but don't have proper food. How can they become desirable citizens? Can those girls grow up in poverty and have no training, and resist temptation when they are older? Don't you think it wrong to bring more and more children into a life like that? Their lives are handicapped from start to finish. The mother is a wreck. How can one without proper food give life to another?

This is one case, and there are millions.

My cousin is 40, she has eight children. She is busy from morning to night. Does each child have its share of a mother's care? No! Mother is busy.

Can you believe a man getting $75 a month can properly care for eight children?

Cannot these mothers be protected? You say those who don't want children are not fit for them. Well, why not allow them to be childless and protect those who have all they can feed?

I have a boy of 2. I am just getting my strength back now. How could I have had another birth only 18 months or two years later and have given the child a strong body?

Every normal woman desires children. Nature controls that. If she doesn't, she is not natural. That probably was caused from under-development in a large family. The world is waking up to the fact that we want quality instead of quantity.

In my case, I would like about six children, but my husband doesn't want any. Queer, isn't it?

Don't you think determined women will keep from having children if they don't want them? MOTHER.

Cabinet Members and Former Officers.

M'MINNVILLE, Or., Jan. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Please name the present members of the Cabinet and ascertain what public positions they held before being appointed to their present position. A. C. LEVIS.

Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, was formerly counselor for the State Department and had previously acted as counsel for the United States in various arbitration and diplomatic tribunals.

William Gibbs McAdoo, Secretary of Treasury, was deputy clerk of United States District Court in Tennessee in 1882. Otherwise he has held no public office, but has been a National Convention delegate and was acting chairman of the National Democratic Committee in campaign of 1912.

Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War, was Vice-Chancellor of New Jersey, 1904-13.

Thomas Watt Gregory, Attorney-General, was special assistant United States Attorney-General in charge of New Haven Railroad investigation in 1913 and was assistant City Attorney of Austin, Tex., 1891-4.

Albert Sidney Burleson, Postmaster-General, was assistant City Attorney, Austin, Tex., 1891-5. He was a member of the 56th and 62d Congress and was re-elected to 63d Congress, but resigned.

Joseph Daniels, Secretary of Navy, was State Printer of North Carolina, 1887-93; chief clerk, Department of Interior, 1893-5; trustee of University of North Carolina; member Democratic National Executive Committee.

Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior, was corporation counsel San Francisco, 1897-02; member Interstate Commerce Commission, 1905-13, and was formerly member of Permanent Railway Commission, representing the United States Government.

David F. Huston, Secretary of Agriculture, was Superintendent of City Schools, Spartansburg, S. C., 1888-91; president Agricultural College of Texas, 1902-5; president University of Texas, 1905-8.

William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, was Commissioner of Public Works, Borough of Brooklyn, 1902-3 and a member of the 62nd Congress.

William Bauchop Wilson, Secretary of Labor, was a member of 60th to 62nd Congress.

Only offices of public or quasi-public character are here given. For other information consult "Who's Who in America" at your Public Library.

Poetry and Verse.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Poetry is an ascent to the heights." "That's what I think. Yet when you start to write it, people say you have dropped into verse."

MEANS USED TO KILL RABBITS.

Poison and Inoculated Carcasses Are Likely Sent to Market.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—A correspondent of The Oregonian asks very pertinent questions as to the fitness of rabbits now found in our city markets for food. A casual examination into conditions, at least, raises doubts. Inquiry into facts regarding the life and death, too, of the rabbit in his habitat east of the mountains, goes still further in shaking our faith in the rabbit as an article of food for human beings.

For many years these small animals have been a grievous pest. They destroy whole fields of growing grain, stacks of alfalfa hay and have damaged, and in some instances ruined, orchards.

In retaliation no means have been too drastic on the part of the settlers. They have tried to spread disease among the common enemy by inoculating them with a virus that would not only be destructive to them, but might also be harmful to other animals, as well as to human life.

The people have mixed strychnine with grain and killed many of the pestiferous animals in that way.

During the last few years rabies has infected the coyotes and dogs up there and it is not hard to believe that in occasional instances either of these species of animals may, and do, wound or kill a rabbit.

It will be seen that all of these methods of warfare are used for simply destruction, not for the purpose of utilizing the meat. But there is yet another mode of slaughter now extensively used, and the carcasses are, to a considerable extent, used for food.

I refer to the "rabbit drive," where hundreds of men and boys meet at a certain time and place, drive thousands of rabbits into wire netting enclosures and then, with sticks and clubs kill and kill. Afterwards wagons are sent out to gather up and haul to the railroad the dead rabbits. As the people up there do not eat them, many are donated to charity.

As to the matter of freshness, or staleness, that depends on the time consumed in gathering up the game and delivering it to our markets here. In gathering up after the slaughter, if any of the other rabbits that had died of the other methods of slaughter, such as inoculation, strychnine or rabies, it would just count one more and by so much go to swell the grand total of Portland's supply of the rabbit of commerce.

I cannot answer your correspondent's question as to whether these "rabbits have been inspected," but will hazard the guess that if they ever are inspected, the "inspector" will never "feed on them."

A few days ago some state official said through The Oregonian that he "had been experimenting in poisoning rabbits in Southern Oregon" and that he had "put out 10 pounds of poisoned oats near an alfalfa stack and the next morning had found nine dead rabbits."

This suggests a problem for some "pure good man" to work out. If it takes 10 pounds of poisoned oats to kill nine rabbits, how many pounds of poisoned rabbit meat will it take to kill ever so many people?

ED C. ROSS.

Too Many Girls in One Door.

MILWAUKEE, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian on January 25 published a news item to the effect that in a fight between two girls the glass partition in the Milwaukie postoffice was broken, and that the postoffice was thereupon closed, thus depriving lock-box renters of the privilege of getting their mail.

In the first place, there was no fight between the girls. A crowd of six girls tried to get out of the outside swinging doors at the same time, resulting in one of them being jammed against a chipped glass panel of the registry section, breaking it so that it was unsafe to leave the lobby open.

This happened just before noon Sunday, when most of the patrons had gotten their mail.

B. L. HAGEMANN,
Postmaster.

Equality at Home.

Judge.

"No such thing as stuck-uppishness about her," says the loyal servitor, defending his mistress against the criticisms of the acquaintance who is inveighing against class discrimination and the attitude of the wealthy toward the working element.

"Well, but don't she order you around?"

"Sure she does. But, Lord! She bawls me out just the same as what she does her husband. She don't make no difference between me an' him, even."

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 29, 1891.

Washington, Jan. 28.—At a late hour tonight Senator Hearst was reported by his physician to be about the same as last night. His condition is regarded as critical, but still hopeful.

George C. Flanders, manager of the Standard Oil Company, left town on Tuesday on a short visit to the Sound.

C. W. Roby, proprietor of the New Holton House, announces to his many friends and the public in general that he will throw the house open to the public this evening. The building has been refinished and refurnished and is now one of the best-arranged hotels on the Coast.

H. S. Holmes, who for the past four years has filled the position of secretary and treasurer of the Willamette Steam Mills Lumber & Manufacturing Company, has resigned and will leave for California about the middle of the month.

A large and enthusiastic audience again greeted the Boston Opera Company at the Park Theater last night.

S. Kirk, of Crab Apple Prairie, 17 miles east of Silverton, called Wednesday and presented this office with a parsnip 33 inches in length, raised on his mountain ranch.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 29, 1866.

The Honorable Oakes Ames, a member of Congress from Massachusetts, is said to be the wealthiest man in Congress.

The celebrated Maine sculptor, Simmonds, has received an order for a colossal statue of President Lincoln, for Philadelphia. It is to cost $30,000.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The marriage of Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas and Brevet Brigadier-General Williams took place this evening at 9 o'clock at the residence of the bride.

The January term of the public schools commenced yesterday under very favorable circumstances. The schools are under the superintendence of Professor O. M. Frambes and R. K. Warren, principal of the Harrison-Street School.

Boats of the rival companies left this city yesterday and made a sharp contest of speed to Oregon City, Captain Strang informs us that the Active connected with the Alert and proceeded up the Willamette.

General William S. Smith, late of Buffalo, is engaged in writing the life of Lieutenant-General Grant.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Glencairn Burns, the youngest son of Robert Burns, the Scottish poet, died at Sheltonham, Saturday, November 18.

Troubles of Carrier.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Being a carrier of The Oregonian and having read where one of the boys had trouble collecting his $1.50, I wished to cite a case of mine.

I have carried a family for four months without a cent. Each time I have called to collect I have been told to come back. I have spent time and money "coming back," and each time have been refused.

I called a few days ago and told the gentleman I needed by money and surely he didn't expect me to carry him for any longer than four months, as I had to pay for my papers each week. No, he didn't pay me; he told me I was too persistent, and he didn't want my d—d old paper and—well, I couldn't write all he told me about myself. Finally he told me to get out. He didn't pay me for the four months, either. In spite of the fact I delivered him the paper each morning in rain, snow or otherwise. They say he is "well-to-do."

A CARRIER.

Sufferer Seeks Relief.

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly give a recipe for the easy killing or dispatching of the idiot who asks in these snowy times, "How do you like this?" with an accent on "this." Perhaps Miss Tingle or Dr. Evans or the courteous office boy might give an expression for the relief of sufferers. ENQUIRER.

Effect of War on Languages

Discussed in

The Sunday Oregonian

Will the present war in Europe prove another step toward the adoption of a universal language? This timely question will be presented in tomorrow's Oregonian by Brander Matthews, who has given it careful and close study. Whether the English language will spread over the world or, whether, in the event of the allies' defeat, the German language will become the prevailing tongue, are among the interesting problems that this story deals with.

HOW UNTERMEYER BECAME RICH IN STEEL—Although he warned the public against speculating in "war stocks," Samuel Untermeyer, well-known attorney, has profited to the extent of $6,000,000 by possession of a large block of Bethlehem steel. This entertaining story deals with Mr. Untermeyer's unexpected acquisition of wealth through a source that he himself thought offered little opportunity.

BIRSKY AND ZAPP ON PRESIDENCY—This week Montague Glass presents his popular characters, Birsky and Zapp, in a discussion of the Presidency and the worth of the President, in the abstract, to the Nation. The story is told in Mr. Glass' inimitable style and goes again to prove that Birsky and Zapp have gone Potash and Perlmutter one better.

TALES TOLD BY ATHLETES' FACES—The recent death of "Tom" Shevlin, famous Yale football star, has called forth many interesting discussions of the habits and manners of athletes and of the general effects that athletic activities have upon the human system. This story presents the subject from an angle heretofore not generally brought to public attention.

ALASKA'S NEW GATEWAY—In this illustrated story Frank G. Carpenter, who is writing a series of Alaskan stories for The Oregonian, tells about the growth and development of Prince Rupert, the newest gateway to Alaska.

THIS IS VISTA HOUSE WEEK—A whirlwind campaign is to be carried through every part of the city in the hope of collecting enough money to assure the immediate construction of the building above Crown Point. Tomorrow's Oregonian will present a picture of the point as it will appear when Vista House is completed and will describe the plans and purposes of Vista House.

GOLF EXERCISES FOR CHILDREN—Not only does the game of golf offer splendid exercises for adults of both sexes, but it is healthful and invigorating for small children. In the big Sunday issue an expert on the subject will explain the various strokes that aid the little folks in developing their muscles.

MOVING-PICTURE FANS, ATTENTION—The Oregonian is printing more motion-picture news each week than any other paper in the Northwest. A full page in the magazine section, besides several pages in the regular news sections, are devoted to this purpose. All the latest news regarding your favorite players will be presented tomorrow.

OTHER FEATURES—The usual entertainment is offered for the little folks, including the comic supplement, Donahey's page of fairy tales and colored drawings and a half page of stories, jokes and puzzles. Other attractions include the usual pages of sporting news, dramatic, society and clubwomen's news.