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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1916.

A RECORD OF BROKEN PLEDGES.

By consenting to the placing of his name on the Presidential primary ballot in Ohio, President Wilson has torn another plank out of the Democratic platform and has left nothing but wreckage.

That platform denounced a tariff for protection, but the Underwood tariff protects some industries, not others. It promised a tariff for revenue, but the revenue is not sufficient to pay rising expenses. It promised a tariff that would reduce the cost of living, but the cost of living has risen.

Legislation was promised which would strengthen the Sherman anti-trust law. The Trade Commission and Clayton laws have weakened that law.

The President was pledged to the principle of a single term, but before his inauguration he repudiated that principle. He kept his repudiation secret for three years, and now clinches it by openly becoming a candidate for a second term.

"An adequate and well proportioned Navy sufficient to defend American policies, protect our citizens and uphold the honor and dignity of the Nation," was promised. The Navy was stinted and allowed to deteriorate until a world war and an irresistible public demand stirred the President to action. The Navy has not been used to defend our policies, to protect our citizens or to uphold our National honor and dignity. The Monroe Doctrine has been imperiled by Mr. Wilson's inaction or ineffective action in Mexico, our citizens have been murdered by hundreds in that country and at sea, yet our Government has done nothing but write notes, and it is confessed at home and proclaimed by our foreign critics that the Nation has lost its self-respect.

Republican extravagance was denounced, but it has been far surpassed by Democratic extravagance.

Rural credit legislation was promised, but has been introduced only after three years of inaction and is in danger of being crowded out of the programme.

Co-operation between Nation and states in waterway development was promised, but not established, and the Democratic party has been prevented only by Republican obstruction from passing wasteful, pork-barrel bills.

Legislation securing the rights of labor was promised. Riders have been added to appropriation bills and provisions inserted in anti-trust bills which were designed to foster the belief that labor unions were exempt from prosecution as illegal combinations, though in fact they gave no such immunity.

Preservation of the rights of the states was pledged, but the Administration now tries to force through Congress bills which violate those rights as to the Western states. Conservation combined with development and use of natural resources was commended, but the bills mentioned would stifle development of the West.

Pledges to foster the growth of the merchant marine were proclaimed, yet Mr. Wilson has helped to drive the American flag from the Pacific Ocean by approving certain vicious provisions of the seamen's law, and has caused capital to avoid shipping investments by proposing Government-owned ships.

Pledged unequivocally to exemption of American coastwise ships from Panama Canal tolls, Mr. Wilson by unwonted exertion forced repeal of that law by Congress.

The Democratic party promised that the civil service law should be "honestly and rigidly enforced," but has seized every opportunity to discard the merit system and revise the spoils system in the interest of "deserving Democrats."

The platform favored "an immediate declaration of the Nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us until the neutralization of the Islands can be secured by treaty with other nations." The Democratic Congress is now passing a bill granting independence at the expiration of four years without regard to the existence of a stable government and without guaranty of neutralization.

"The full protection of the United States Government" was pledged to "every American citizen residing or having property in any foreign country, both for himself and his property." This protection has been denied to Americans in Mexico, who have been murdered, robbed and outraged, and the Administration is now bartering away the rights of Americans to travel the sea in safety.

Extension of the rural mail delivery system was promised. That system has been demoralized and has been withdrawn from many sections where pioneers are struggling to develop the country.

The platform said: "Our pledges are made to be kept when in office." With very few exceptions those pledges have been or are in process of being broken. The Democratic party has not kept faith with the people, and its leader's candidacy for a second term puts the capstone on the edifice of broken promises.

Several weeks ago an article over the signature of Robert C. Wright appeared in The Sunday Oregonian. The article related to the campaign of Italy in Austria. It is only fair, because of criticisms of Mr. Wright, to state that the article was not originally submitted in the form of a signed letter, but was a translation prepared by him at the solicitation of The Oregonian. Mr. Wright is familiar with several languages and has also translated German and French for The Oregonian. His name was attached in this instance with no other thought than to give him credit for his talents, and was not done at his request. It appears, however, that the form of the article may readily give the impression that he is volunteering opinion on the war, which is not the case.

A STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY.

President Wilson does not pose as one who knows it all and has nothing more to learn. He does not pretend that he has always been right or that he is so wise that he can learn nothing from others or from experience. In his speeches he admits that he has changed his mind in the past year as to preparedness and as to a tariff commission. A year ago he did not favor the appointment of a tariff commission, considering that it was not necessary, at that time at least. Now he has found that the appointment of a tariff commission is desirable and he is urging Congress to pass a measure providing for the commission. A year ago the President did not consider that there was real need of making preparations for a greater Army and Navy.—Dallas Itemizer (Dem.).

Naturally the people of the United States, knowing now the humility with which the President views himself in his relation to public questions, and the acknowledged and obvious need of learning more about them, wonder what the next change of mind will be. Will it be Mexico?

But the marvel about the rapid progress of the President from one opinion to another is not so much that, finding himself in the wrong, he has changed his mind, but that he has changed also the mind of his party. Or has the party changed?

We solicit light from our Democratic contemporary on that subject. As a sturdy and consistent exponent of Democratic thought, has the Itemizer changed because the President changed? Or has it believed all the time that the President was in the wrong and that time and opportunity would set him right?

If he is right now, is not the gratitude of the Democratic press and Democratic party due to those farseeing critics who discovered his errors and pointed out to him and to the world the truth?

If he is wrong now, does our friend, the Itemizer, intend meekly to follow him into the paths of darkness and humiliation?

What we are chiefly interested in knowing is when and how the great psychological transformation that turned the Presidential theories inside out and the Presidential policies upside down was communicated to the Democratic party?

WHERE JOSEPHUS STANDS.

The Oregonian prints elsewhere an extraordinary communication from one who does not subscribe himself friend, but who thinks it meet to administer to the Republican party and The Oregonian a more or less well deserved castigation. He declares himself a lifelong Republican. Therefore he is for Josephus Daniels and all his works, and he is much hurt at the remarks made at the recent Republican banquet about that great man.

The letter is printed because a lifelong Republican should always have a hearing, especially when he offers the unique view that the way to bring harmony to the grand old party is to set up on his hind legs and howl at the men who are actively at work for a real reunion, and when he announces himself a devoted follower of a North Carolina Democrat who is first for a small Navy and then for a big Navy, and really for any old Navy that will tolerate him for Secretary.

The President recently at St. Louis declared that we ought to have "incomparably the greatest Navy in the world." But where does Josephus stand? Josephus says we've got it; so what's the use worrying or doing anything more? Anyhow, we've got the greatest Secretary in all American history. Has that laudatory speech of the President's a year or so ago been so soon forgotten? Not by Josephus.

Let us hear what our greatest Secretary, still under the fostering influence of Secretary Bryan, had to say in December, 1914:

> There are reasons to hope that the horrors and cost of this war will hasten the coming of the day for a conference of the powers to consider the safe steps to be taken to reduce armament and dreadnoughts and submarines. It may not be opportune at this time for our Republic to move for such a conference, but when peace smiles upon this war-torn globe there may be reserved for America the coveted honor of initiating a movement which will make possible a reduction of fighting craft without imperilling the rights of any peoples. Is it too much to believe this generation will witness such an agreement, and men now living will see the good hour prophesied by Tennyson when
>
> "The war drum throbbed no longer and the battle flags were furled
> In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world"?

The goal which our greatest Naval Secretary and our smallest Secretary of State had in view a year ago was disarmament. Even our versatile President was then stroking the hair of the war monster the right way, and assuring the world that the animal would not bite—at least not bite us.

But now the President is for "incomparably the greatest Navy in the world." He could not turn too quick for Josephus. For that eminent North Carolina dry-land patriot is first, last and always for his job.

THE CASE AGAINST BRANSON.

A jury at McMinnville has convicted William Branson, 22 years old, of the murder October 8, near the town of Willamina, where all the principals lived, of William Booth. Thus ends part one of a mystery story which has stirred Yamhill County and interested the whole state.

Branson was convicted on evidence purely circumstantial. No single outstanding incident pointed inflexibly to him as the slayer. Yet each of a series of many details small in themselves indicated his guilt. This was his second trial. He and Mrs. Anna Booth, widow of the slain William Booth, were tried jointly last December and the jury disagreed. This time Branson was tried separately and Mrs. Booth's trial is to follow.

The case which District Attorney R. L. Conner presented against Branson was about as follows:

He was known to have been paying attentions to Mrs. Booth, and William Booth and his wife had quarreled about him. Early in the afternoon of the murder, while her husband was absent, Mrs. Booth set out over the hill behind her house to go, she said, to her mother's. Shortly afterward young Branson borrowed his cousin's bicycle at the store of Ora Godsey, and was seen riding out the road she would intercept after crossing the hill.

Axel Nelson, a farmer, and Mrs. Mary Eggen, talking in front of Mrs. Eggen's home a quarter of a mile below the thicket where Mr. Booth was killed, saw Mrs. Booth pass them at 1 o'clock and shortly afterward a man on a bicycle, whom both positively identified as Branson. They fixed the time by a brickyard whistle. Nelson soon drove on. Mrs. Eggen saw a man she took to be Booth hurrying across the fields in the direction his wife and Branson had gone.

At 1:30—all the state's witnesses were agreed to this as the approximate time of the murder—she heard a shot. Mrs. Mary Yates, behind whose house Booth was killed, and several others heard it. Mrs. Yates the moment before had seen Mr. Booth run into the thicket, but thought nothing of the shot.

Mrs. Eggen saw the same man who had ridden after Mrs. Booth earlier on the bicycle, and whom she had identified as Branson, ride hurriedly back toward town some time after the shot. Ora Godsey, the storekeeper, swore positively that Branson returned the bicycle at 2:30 o'clock, and stuck to his story in the face of efforts to prove that Branson had returned much earlier and was in town at 1:30.

Mr. Booth was unarmed. The evidence seemed to show he had surprised someone in the thicket and had been shot, the bullet being that of a 38-caliber revolver. Branson had borrowed such a revolver some months before from a cousin, and it had not been returned. Though the state could not produce this weapon, neither could young Branson explain satisfactorily what had become of it.

Facts small in themselves often, as in this case, are damning in the aggregate. How difficult it is to travel the road to transgression without leaving a footprint trail!

THE VICE OF OVEREATING.

The conclusion of a New York actuary that overeating is a close second to alcoholic excesses as a menace to health is a forerunner of the day when eating habits will play an important part in life insurance statistics. Today the chronic drunkard finds difficulty in securing a large life insurance policy at a moderate premium. Many companies reject him altogether. Yet the omnivorous person who is gradually breaking down his body by overindulgence in foods encounters no difficulty so long as the process of physical decay had not actually set in.

Such decay is certain to develop. Overeating must be set down as a baleful and pernicious habit. Continually overburdened with foods that the system does not demand the functions concerned with the intricate processes of digestion ultimately break down. Even before the breaking point is reached there may be a portion of the work which cannot be performed completely. Poisons that should be carried off are distributed throughout the system, setting up brain irritation and causing various minor disorders. Occasionally these warnings are heeded and the fault corrected, but very often the slave of heavy, rich food follows his vicious weakness into the grave.

Increasing mortality rates among the higher age groups must be traceable in a large degree to the abuses of overeating. Certainly a percentage of the increase among persons 40 years and over is due to use of alcohol and improper habits of living. When the exact part overeating plays in this tragedy has been reduced to concrete figures no doubt we shall stand aghast at the scope of this hidden enemy of good health and longevity.

ADEQUATE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

The plan of Army increase on which the committees of Congress seem to be settling is far short of the Nation's needs. A regular Army of 140,000 and a National Guard of 200,000 men will add only about 120,000 men to the active strength of our defensive forces. We actually need to have at all times 1,000,000 men fully trained and fully equipped, with enough officers and equipment for another million men to be trained as reinforcements for the first million while war is in progress.

This does not mean that we should have at all times 1,000,000 men devoting all their time to soldiering. An Army of 200,000 regulars enlisted for six years, of which two years would be spent with the colors and four years in the reserve, would soon give us 600,000 men fully trained and equipped and ready on the instant to answer a call to arms. A National Guard of 200,000 men, organized, trained and equipped as the Congress committees propose, would form the next line. After men had been brought to the required standard of efficiency in the National Guard they could be passed into a militia reserve, which would provide another 200,000 men. By adding military instruction to the course in the universities and Government-aided colleges enough officers could be provided for the reserves and for the second million men, who would be put in training when war began.

This programme need not add seriously to our annual expenditures. The scale of pay proposed by the Congress committees for the National Guard is very moderate. A small annual payment would suffice for both the regular and militia reserves. It would keep them on the rolls and would compensate for ten days' or two weeks' annual maneuvers in camp. When the additional artillery, ammunition and equipment for the entire force had been provided, small further expense on that account would be necessary in time of peace. The additional expense would then consist mainly of the cost of men added to the regulars, the pay and equipment of militia and the small pay of regular and militia reserves.

There is too much disposition to compare what is now proposed with that which we now have, and to gasp at the size of the addition in men and expense. The conditions which have been held to justify our present force have passed away and new conditions have arisen. It is incumbent upon Congress to determine what force is necessary to meet these new conditions, and then to provide that force as economically as possible. Whatever may be the extra expense, it will be cheap insurance of the Nation's safety.

PROTECTED ONLY BY THE WAR.

"Woolgrowers and manufacturers look forward confidently to a buoyant year in 1916," says the bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, but that will be because the industry is protected by the war as effectively as though there were a protective tariff. The situation which would have existed had there been no war can be conceived from the fact that in the first seven months of 1914, under the Underwood tariff, imports of wool manufacturers were $29,239,274, as compared with $8,870,101 in the first seven months of 1913 under the Payne-Aldrich tariff. In the first seven months of 1915, when the American wool industry was protected from the Underwood tariff by the war, imports decreased to $11,240,251.

The war restricted imports of foreign wool and thereby protected the American woolgrower. The war also restricted imports of foreign wool manufacturers and thereby protected him still further. The war created a demand for American woolen goods to clothe European soldiers, thereby increasing the demand for American raw wool and protecting the grower still further. The woolgrower is made prosperous by the war, not by American tariff laws.

For some time after the war ends it may cause a shortage of wool, for Russia's supply has been reduced by the demands of the Czar's soldiers and by the ravages of invaders, and the wool supply of Western Asia may be absorbed by the German and Austrian armies. But European woolen manufacture will revive, and foreign goods will again pour into American markets. Production of American mills, which are the American growers' only market, will decrease and our growers will feel more keenly the competition of foreign growers as foreign flocks are restored. The respite granted to the American wool man will only continue until these influences begin to be felt or until protection on his products is restored.

The recent determination of the authorities at Hillsboro to enforce strictly the archaic Sunday observance law brings forth sensible comment from the Independent of that city, which points out, among other absurdities and inequities of the statute:

> It is well known that the most earnest advocate of Sunday observance has seen no evil in having ice cream delivered for his Sunday dinner, or perhaps has dropped into a refreshment parlor for a cooling drink after a hot evening in Summer at his church. The old law recognized the necessity for permitting livery stables to do business on Sunday, yet Hillsboro stables have nearly been supplanted by garages, which are now ordered closed. Recent funerals conducted in Hillsboro emphasize the absurdity of the rule, for in them the only horse-drawn vehicle has been the hearse. Indeed horses have so largely been supplanted by automobiles that it is doubtful if even the dead may be buried on Sunday if the automobile is not permitted to operate.

No one defends or excuses the present law; but its literal enforcement appears to be in some places the result of late agitation.

A humble suggestion is made to the Portland Journal that it include in its series "Nothing the Matter With Portland" the following little article from the Tillamook Headlight:

> Yellow journalism in Portland is a curse to that city, and the Oregon Voter told some pointed truths in a recent issue when it said:
>
> "Then, what's the matter with our evening papers? They impugn motives, assassinate character, discredit worthy effort and inflame discontent. They stir up controversy, split the town, array neighbor against neighbor, create factions and feed envy. That's what's the matter with Portland—a spirit of destructive criticism has taken possession of a portion of our press until a large part of our people have come to believe that Portland's substantial citizenship is in one giant conspiracy to ruin the town."
>
> The glaring falsehood published by the Portland Journal in regard to the decision of the prohibition law in Washington, was sufficient to prove what is the matter with the Portland evening papers.

The British habit of sending a small army to do the work of a large one is continually developing Generals of the caliber of Townshend, who holds Kut-el-Amara against Turkish hordes. These heroes' talents would be better used in leading armies large enough to win decisive victories than in standing siege until relieved.

The Colombian Minister should not go off in a huff because the Senate reduces the Democracy's gift $10,000,000. He should remember that times are hard with the Democracy since it spent the surplus President Taft left.

Wives old and young whose grievances are more or less fancied are commended to the tale of misery revealed in the arrest of the young woman who left her baby in a department store.

The great drawback about submarines is that when they hit a prize like the Japanese treasure ship which is coming to the United States they cannot get away with the plunder.

People not afflicted can contemplate in wonder the couple recently married at St. Charles, Mo., each minus the right arm. Broils and bliss in that family will be in equilibration.

There is no connection between Wilson's announcement and the earthquake four thousand miles from Washington. Roosevelt and Bryan are not that far distant.

Floods are sweeping through many parishes of Louisiana, but the people never think of leaving. Where else could they get the ague and enjoy the thrill of the "shaker"?

The landlord at Kelly's Butte is ready to serve the balanced ration to guests. The cost to the authorities is 25 cents a day, and it has the merit of being "filling."

England is obliged to get back to the primitive and is recruiting an army of 400,000 women to do the farm work while the men are at the many fronts.

With February only half over, the city is becoming tremendously "dry," according to the affidavits filed for temporary relief.

Read the names of alleged anarchists in the plots said to be revealed in Chicago and then consider the immigration laws.

Political activity is stirring through the state, but politics will not begin to seethe until the early potatoes are planted.

What a heartache it gave to see twelve dozen quarts of Japanese "hooch" turned into the gutter at Dallas!

It makes a person shudder when reading of condemned meat and wonder how much gets away from inspection.

The five hundred ministers united to make New York "dry" have a job that calls for five hundred thousand.

The Columbia River Highway pictures will do the work of thousands of letters in advertising Oregon.

Even with a world war on his hands, John Bull is not too busy to make another island fortress.

The way local cases of drunkenness are increasing, some of the beverages must be home-made.

In talking to Parliament, King George implies his imperial cousin is a bad lot.

France is raising a few billions for expenses, but Great Britain is the big banker.

What the Chicago police believe and what they can prove are wide apart.

QUESTION IS PUT TO DEMOCRATS

Candidates Asked About Their Stand on Preparedness Question.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—The position of Woodrow Wilson on the paramount issues of Americanism and preparedness has long been well known. When the Bryan-Jackson-Wilson Club gave its annual dinner (name taken from the order of cheering), the principal speakers, four in all, were no doubt carefully selected by the committee in charge for what they would say. The first, a polished college professor of pleasing address and appearance, led off by praising Woodrow Wilson as President and roundly condemning preparedness, asserting Wilson does not want it, and picturing him as standing stolidly against the demands of a war-mad people.

The second speaker did not trouble himself so much as even to offer perfunctory praise to Wilson, but at once launched into a most fulsome eulogy of the hyphenated American, boldly asserting himself to be a better citizen than the native born, and in duty bound to keep the renounced country of his nativity ever uppermost in his mind. The hyphen, he asserted, is a badge of honor.

The third speaker frankly announced himself as not friendly to Wilson, but assured us "It is better to endure the ills we have than fly to those we know not of." The latter presumedly being a possible Republican. The fourth speaker was the only one who appeared to be for Wilson and the things he stands for without reservation. His fine, scholarly eulogy of Wilson, delivered with evident feeling and sincerity, was the only bright light in the fog of doubt which shrouded the entire programme.

When the name of Woodrow Wilson was mentioned during the speeches there was ladylike applause. When Andrew Jackson was mentioned the applause was better, yet somewhat doubtful, as though many of those present were fearful that too much noise might arouse the spirit of that rugged old warrior who fought the great battle of New Orleans with green levies of raw militia, without sufficient guns, equipment or supplies.

It was when the name of Bryan was mentioned that the real spontaneous Oregon howl burst forth, and the faces of officers and office holders beamed with delight. Thus the question naturally arises, and has been asked many times since, who arranged this meeting and why was it so arranged? Who selected the speakers and why? Did it all merely happen or was it all carefully planned to put the Democrats of Oregon on record as for Wilson on the surface because they think he will be nominated and re-elected, but against the most important things he stands for?

Since this astonishing dinner there have been one or two meetings of the so-called Woodrow Wilson League, at which the same college professor further expounded and elaborated his anti-preparedness propaganda while eulogizing Wilson. We are told by the press that he praised Bryan at these meetings to the evident delight of his audience. In the old days of ward heelers and gang politics this sort of thing was called "knifing the candidate," but we do not expect such things in these enlightened days of sweet feminine procedure.

Oregon is one state most vitally interested in adequate preparedness. The great majority of Oregon Democrats are silently but faithfully supporting President Wilson and all he stands for in National welfare and dignity, they are going to scrutinize candidates, their records and words more carefully than ever before, and while it may be possible that a delegation from this state will go to the next National convention which will support Wilson for President while trying to tie his hands through the platform, yet this will be as far as their efforts to ham-string him can go, for the convention as a whole will not follow them in their blind allegiance to Bryan. The candidates who go before the people at the general elections in November must be unreservedly for Wilson and the flag or go down to defeat.

This is the accepted time for real Democratic leadership in Oregon; no weaklings or maudlin sentimentalists may hope to command even the full party strength.

E. L. VAN DRESAR.

WHY GAS KEEPS GOING HIGHER

Sumatra Product Goes to War Field and John D. Has Own Way.

WHITWOOD COURT, Linnton, Or., Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—The Government's executive order of September, 1907, withdrawing lands supposed to contain coal from entry, has no doubt prevented in no small degree the development of parts of the California oil territory, such as Kern River, where wells could be made with but small expense, and which was known as a poor man's field. But in the bigger producing fields where the cost of drilling runs up to $40,000, and even higher, it is hardly reasonable to think that the mere cost of leasing or buying the land would affect operations. According to the figures of Will Payne, the production of the Kern River field was about 7,000,000 barrels in the year 1914, while the Midway yielded close to 50,000,000 barrels. The state's entire production in 1909 was 55,000,000 barrels, and in 1914 103,000,000 barrels.

The fact that production in November was 1,000,000 barrels short of sales does not signify that the production was any less than usual, nor does it mean that the production is not sufficient to meet the demand. An interview sent out from the Interior Department, Washington, D. C., by Secretary Lane may throw some light on the subject. He says, in part, that fuel oil has a large use in naval warfare of today, yet the tying up of the big tank steamers in both the Atlantic and Pacific seaports is already embarrassing the oil producers of this country who depend so largely upon the export trade in all the forms of petroleum, crude or refined.

As to the cost, that noise of gasoline from Sumatra had a very desirable effect on the market for a time. But since their location gives them access to a more profitable market at this time, by way of the Indian Ocean and Red Sea, they have no doubt left the consumers of the Pacific Coast to the mercy of poor old John D., who, after much worry and rough treatment, has come again into his own.

M. BROCKLESBY.

Poem on General Lee Wanted.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Feb. 13.—(To the Editor.)—For months I have been wanting to write and ask you for, or if you know where I could get, the poem entitled, "Robert E. Lee." I have lost it, but remember a verse, which is attached herewith.

I have read the page of old poems in The Sunday Oregonian and enjoyed them all. I thought perhaps a reader of The Oregonian might be able to help me. Will appreciate greatly any effort of yours to get the poem for me. This is one verse of the poem:

> They stood by the chieftain's pillow,
> And the watchers' hearts swelled high,
> Like the swell of the darkening billow
> When the breath of the storm is nigh.
> For they knew by the solemn silence
> That answered their words of cheer,
> They saw by the upward pointing hand,
> That the hero's end was near.

MOLLIE W. MAXWELL.

Cribbage Count.

ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 13.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me whether or not A is entitled to a run of five on the following play in a game of cribbage:

A plays an ace; B plays a 5; A plays a 2; B plays a 4; A plays a 3.

D. R. B.

A counts the run of five and also (should the hand start with 1) 15-2, making a total of seven.

ADMIRER OF JOSEPHUS SPEAKS

Mr. McCamant Chided for Criticising Secretary of Navy.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—I notice that The Oregonian has completed an harmonious reunion of the once sadly shattered Republican party, following the little soothing syrup affair at the Commercial Club last Saturday night, but in looking over the list of those present I was somewhat surprised to find the names of many former if not present Democrats. Since when did Bert Haney, John McNulty, and at least six others with whom I am personally acquainted, become Republicans? Or can it be that they have been guilty of doing what The Oregonian so often accused the Democrats of doing, falsely registering? Oh, perish the thought.

I have been a lifelong Republican, and believe I am still a good one; but I am not in sympathy with the standpat sentiments that sent the party down to defeat three years ago, and don't intend to submit to them now. Would The Oregonian have us close our eyes, even as it has chosen to do, to the fact that the great majority of Republican women voters are thoroughly aroused at the manner in which they have been willfully ignored in the organization of the Oregon Republican Club? It does no good to say that there were many present last Saturday night; some came at the request of their husbands, others to hear and see what took place. I believe that events will occur in the next few days that will clearly show this to be the case.

We are, all of us, interested in the honor, safety and prosperity of our country, I am sure, while not all in accord as to how it may be attained; but I venture to say that such speeches as the one made by Mr. McCamant last Saturday night will hardly help to that spirit of good-fellowship that will be a necessary factor in the future success of the Republican party. I am at considerable loss to understand what particular motive impelled Mr. McCamant to strike so viciously at Secretary Daniels, as I fail to see wherein the Secretary of the Navy is an issue in the coming campaign, and I have been requested by quite a number of ex-Navy men, former shipmates of mine and veterans like myself, to refute some of the statements of Mr. McCamant.

Ninety per cent of the enlisted personnel of the Navy know and realize that in Secretary Daniels they have the best friend that the enlisted men ever had, and the best since Roosevelt was assistant Secretary of the Navy; perhaps the opposite may be said as to the official personnel. This may account, to some extent, for the bitterness of the attacks made upon him.

He has done more in the short time that he has been in the Cabinet to spread the true Lincoln principles and extend the right of advancement to the commission ranks of the enlisted men than all his predecessors for 50 years, and this action alone was sufficient to place him under the ban of the Annapolis graduate. I am thankful that I can say that not all Annapolis graduates are afflicted in this way. One of the first official acts of Secretary Daniels was to select one of these liberal-minded officers and place him at the head of that most important department, the Bureau of Navigation—a military socialist, if the term may be used. I have known him 25 years. He believes that no position is too high for any man if he has the qualities that entitle him to advancement. Perhaps Secretary Daniels' elimination of the vast quantities of liquor that formerly were a part of the officers' mess and his firm stand against the exorbitant profits of the steel barons and in favor of a Government armor-plate factory may account for some of the calumny that is being heaped upon him.

O. H. STARON.

SCIENTISTS UPHOLD EVOLUTION

Views of Living Authorities Put Against Those Who Have Passed.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Rev. C. E. Cline in a recent attack on the theory of evolution says: "I must unite with Carpenter, Dana, Agassiz, Henry, Sir John Herschel, Sir William Thompson, Asa Gray and a number of recent scientists in denying the insufficiency (sic) of proof in evolution."

It will be noted that all of these scientists are dead. If Mr. Cline had inquired into the opinion of living scientists he would have found that there is not one worthy of the name who does not subscribe to the theory of evolution. "Darwin's evolution theory has gained a complete victory among thinking men the world over. Those who reject it afford not so much an argument against the theory as against their own intelligence." This is quoted from an editorial three years ago in The Oregonian.

As throwing light on the attitude of modern men of science toward evolution it will be of interest to recall the questionnaire sent out by the Biblical World, of Chicago, the results of which were published in its issue of January, 1913. I will quote from this religious periodical: "No thoughtful person can fail to perceive the dangers to religious faith implied in certain philosophies which are based on evolution. . . . The public has been widely assured that 'evolution has collapsed.'"

"Such an affirmation," it continues, "involves a question of fact. If evolution has collapsed, scientists, particularly the astronomers, geologists and biologists, would be the first to know. If it has not collapsed, the religious world must discover a way in which evolution can be utilized as one of the revelations of God's will."

Accordingly, in order to get at the opinion of the scientific world, the Biblical World asked a number of leaders of American science to give a brief answer to the question: "Does modern science still believe in evolution?" The unanimity of response makes it apparent that our theological thinking cannot ignore, much less deny, the place which evolution is holding in our modern world."

Then follow letters from William Patten, professor of biology and zoology, Dartmouth College; Ray Moulton, professor of astronomy, University of Chicago; Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, New York; T. P. Mail, professor of anatomy, Johns Hopkins Medical School; S. W. Williston, professor of paleontology, University of Chicago; Albert P. Matthews, professor of chemistry, University of Chicago; Jacques Loeb, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York; John M. Coulter, professor of botany, University of Chicago; E. G. Conklin, professor of biology, Princeton University; C. M. Child, associate professor of zoology, University of Chicago; Frank R. Lillie, professor of zoology, Columbia University, and Charles Davenport, department of experimental evolution, Carnegie Institute, of Washington.

Without exception these eminent authorities affirm not only their own adherence, but that of all modern scientists, to the theory of evolution. The last-named authority expresses his views briefly thus: "I do not see the necessity of 50 or 100 words when all I can say on the matter can be expressed in a sentence. I do not know a modern scientific man who does not believe in evolution."

There is not a shadow of doubt that the theory of evolution is maintained by the entire modern scientific world, that it is as immutable as Newton's law of gravitation and that religion will have to, sooner or later, conform its tenets to scientific truth.

H. B. A.

When Eyes Begin to Fail.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—When I read a short time my eyes tire and blur. Please advise me what to do.

MABEL JONES.

Consult an optician or some doctor who is an eye specialist.

In Other Days

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of February 16, 1891.

Deputy Sheriff DeGarmo, of Sac County, Iowa, left the city for Salem last night to procure the necessary requisition papers to take back Mitchlin, the forger arrested here a week ago.

That brilliant little comedienne, Lotta, whose name as an exponent of soubrette comedy is almost a household word in this country, will make her initial appearance in Portland at the Marquam Grand tonight in her amusing play, "Musette."

A handsome naptha launch, lately received from New York by David Robertson, was yesterday tested by a party of gentlemen who made a trip up to Elk Rock and back. The boat makes a speed of eight miles an hour.

The electric motor for turning the draw of the Madison-street bridge is in position, but has not been put in operation yet, as it is deemed advisable to allow a day or two for the cement around the machinery to set.

President Diaz, of Mexico, it is announced, will soon start for France where he will remain several months. One of the reasons assigned for his departure is ill health.

T. P. O'Conner, the renowned Irish patriot and orator, has telegraphed a friend in this city that he will arrive here on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Colonel C. F. Beebe, of the First Regiment, Oregon National Guard, is expected to arrive home from the East this morning.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of February 16, 1866.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 25.—As set forth in a former dispatch, the Hon. George H. Williams, Senator of the United States from Oregon, and a member of the committee on the reconstruction of the Southern states, recently appointed by Lafayette S. Foster, arrived in this city late Saturday evening on a tour of observation bearing on the intelligent discharge of the duties of the committee of which he is a member.

The ice in the Columbia has again stopped communication with The Dalles. The Cascade, which left yesterday morning, returned to her dock from the mouth of the Willamette.

As "The Actress," none who witnessed the performance at the Willamette Theater last night can doubt the ability of Fannie Morgan Phelps to be at home on the stage. Her personations were excellent.

We have received the first number of the Montana Radiator, published by T. J. Favorite at Helena City. It is presented on brown paper and contains 15 columns of reading matter.

The Collector of Internal Revenues of Montana Territory has reported that the product of the gold and silver mines of that territory for the year 1865 was upwards of $16,000,000. In 1862 the territory was a wilderness and uninhabitated except by savages.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 14.—The Connecticut Republican convention has nominated General Joseph R. Hawley, of Hartford, as Governor. Resolutions expressive of confidence in President Johnson were passed.

FAMILY SUPPLIED; PROFIT MADE

Sixteen Pullets Provide Household With Egg Needs and Money Besides.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—A dozen to 50 well-kept hens, for a family flock, are not only a great comfort for their freshly-laid eggs and wholesome meat, but they can be easily made a source of income to help keep the family, particularly so for the wage-earner out of work or for other needs that can be supplied from the sale of eggs.

The correspondent at Eugene writing to The Oregonian, February 11, about his success with a small flock of pullets is a good example, and for the sake of those who might be interested I will add my experience this Winter with a bunch of 16 pullets.

My pullets began laying November 1, and up to February 1 their record is as follows: Eggs produced, 38 dozen, 26 dozen of which were sold for $12.35, averaging 47½ cents per dozen. The remaining 12 dozen, consumed by the family, at the same figure equals $5.70, making $18.05 received for eggs. The cost for feed for the three months was $3.18, averaging 18 2-2 cents per dozen, which consisted of scratch food, cornmeal, rolled oats, bran and alfalfa meal, vegetables, table scraps, grit, lime and charcoal and plenty of fresh warm water. These pullets would have made a still better showing but for the fact that they were closely confined throughout the recent cold snap.

You will note that I speak of fresh warm water, and I wish to emphasize the fact that water with the chill taken off in freezing weather or fresh and cool on a hot day is an important factor for egg production equal to all other foods combined.

ANOTHER HEN FANCIER.

Pain Not God-Appointed.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—In reply to the Christian who indorses Father Black, I would say that I also attempt to be worthy of the title of Christian. From what I can find out, Jesus spent the best part of his life helping the simple, everyday people who work. He relieved their sufferings, fought against their wrongs, and strove for fuller and more abundant life for those that had been denied such life. He did not tolerate the idea that sickness, pain and misery are God-appointed and must not be interfered with by our intelligence and feeling of humanism.

Neither do I believe he would tolerate the doctrine that God has appointed the useless suffering, poverty and degradation which result from excessive child-bearing. I say with all reverence that I believe Jesus would fearlessly indorse birth-control. I believe his intelligence and his humanism would lead him to do so. He was not a passive onlooker during any pioneer struggle for social betterment in his time. He was unafraid of vituperation and innuendo. He was no moral coward.

A BELIEVER IN A RELIGION OF KINDNESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

More So.

Judge.

"She always dresses like a fashion plate," we say, referring to the woman who, though stout, is nevertheless charming.

"Do you think so?" murmurs her bosom friend, sweetly. "Now, I should say she was more like a fashion platter."