The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1916.

MR. HOLIER-THAN-THOU WILSON.

President Wilson's warning against the "sinister and unscrupulous influences," which he accuses of spreading alarmist reports about Mexico with the object of forcing intervention, is one more example of the distorted view he takes of everything connected with Mexico and of his pharisaical assumption that he and his associates are the sole depositories of virtue and wisdom and that all who oppose them are prompted by motives "sinister and unscrupulous." The news services are warned not to publish anything which may help the designs of these wicked men and which may wound the susceptibilities of "the distressed and sensitive people of Mexico."

Now what are the plain facts of the case? A large number of Americans invested their capital in Mexican mines, oil fields, ranches and other enterprises, and thousands of other Americans took up their abode in Mexico to develop those enterprises. Their action was not only lawful, but laudable; it is of the same order as that which has developed the United States. They carried American energy into a foreign country in order to earn an honest living, to improve their fortunes, to extend American commerce and to win glory for the United States by so doing. They reckoned on the protection of the United States for their lives and property. Any other country would have given this protection to its citizens, and these Americans assumed that their country would do no less.

For five years these men and women have been subjected to all manner of wrong at the hands of a series of revolutionary and bandit leaders. First one, then another, leader gained the upper hand, and they fought with barbarous ferocity, but they agreed in one respect—all murdered, robbed, outraged and blackmailed Americans and insulted the American flag. Mr. Wilson has recognized as ruler of Mexico General Carranza, who yields nothing to his rivals in the barbarity of his methods of warfare or in his murdering and plundering of Americans, while he has surpassed them all in insolent defiance of the United States Government. By recognizing Carranza Mr. Wilson has provoked Villa to open war on the United States and has made necessary the expedition against Villa.

The Americans in question, having learned by bitter experience that the one consuming passion of Mexicans is hatred of Americans, and knowing that many of Carranza's troops have but recently foresworn allegiance to Villa, are naturally apprehensive that these men will turn upon the American troops. They naturally doubt the good faith of Carranza's co-operation in American hostilities against Villa and they anticipate that popular enmity to Americans will cause Carranza's troops to join in the fight against us or at least secretly to connive at Villa's escape. They know Mexico better than Mr. Wilson or any of his officials, as has been proved by the confirmation of all their predictions as to the results of the Wilson policies and by the failure of every effort made by Mr. Wilson to pacify Mexico. They have good cause to criticise his policy, for he deserted those who were at Tampico to be rescued by the British and Germans and the best he has done for them is to tell them to get out of Mexico and to give them free transportation to the United States. When the Tampico refugees complained to Secretary Daniels of the Government's inaction, he asked, "Aren't you thankful you are alive?"

These men judge of present events in Mexico by their own knowledge and experience. They see 5000 or 6000 American troops march far into Mexico, where actually and possibly hostile forces are on all sides. They see this small American army dependent for supplies on motor trucks traversing a long desert road, while Carranza, though professing friendship, haggles over the terms on which it shall be permitted to use the railroad. They see our entire mobile Army to be barely sufficient to patrol the border and to keep open communication, leaving little, if any, margin for reinforcement of the expedition. They view with suspicion every move of the Carranza troops and they believe that the United States should have available enough troops to overcome the forces of Villa and Carranza combined. They are more anxious for the "distressed and sensitive people" of the United States than for those of Mexico, at whose hands they have suffered such great wrongs.

But when these Americans give their own interpretation to events and express their opinion as to what is likely to happen and as to what the United States Government should do to meet the perils which threaten our troops, they are accused by the man who left them and their property to the mercy of savages of having "sinister and unscrupulous" motives and of scheming to force intervention in Mexico "in the interests of certain American owners of Mexican properties." These interests are styled by Mr. Wilson's followers the big interests and it is assumed that, because they are big, they have no claim on the protection of the United States, and that their opinions on public affairs should have no attention. The truth is that all American interests, big or little, have an equal right to the protection of the Government in doing that which is lawful. If the smelting, oil or mining companies violate the law, they are liable to punishment and should be punished, but they should not, on that account, be denied protection in exercising their lawful rights.

Mr. Wilson's statement is a shameful demagogic appeal to class prejudice against all who criticise his Mexican policy. It is a covert attempt to induce the news associations to suppress all adverse criticism. It claims all virtue and wisdom for Mr. Wilson's party and ascribes all vice and folly to his opponents. It is a revival of the long-since discredited theory that one's political opponents are fiends in human shape. It is the epitome of political bigotry, pharisaism and injustice.

ONE MAN'S POWER.

There was a survey of the public schools of Portland in 1913, under the direction of a capable and industrious citizens' committee. A corps of experts was employed to do the actual work of investigation and recommendation; and naturally the investigators found much to criticise. They always do.

Undoubtedly much, or perhaps all, discovered by the distinguished educators who were brought here to find out what was the matter was well-founded. Yet it is not easy, even when the seat of the trouble is known, and the remedy is clear, to apply it.

The school authorities say that a long step, indeed several long steps, have been taken in adopting the methods suggested by the survey. But the Rev. Mr. Boyd made an address Sunday in which he voiced a different opinion. The doctor was inclined to lay heavy blame on the School Board, and to say that it meddles too much, and the City Superintendent ought to run the schools. The directors are officially a bad lot; personally they are estimable gentlemen, no doubt. The system, not the men, is to blame.

It may well be wondered if Dr. Boyd and other critics of the schools have read carefully the survey's "suggested law for the management of the Portland school district." Let us take section 7:

> The Superintendent of Schools shall be the chief executive officer of the Board of Education and shall have general co-ordinating authority and oversight over the work of all executive officers and other employers of the school district. He shall have full responsibility for the course of study, the selection of text-books and supplemental books, and the selection, promotion, assignment, transfer or dismissal of assistant superintendents, special supervisors, principals and teachers, the Board acting in all such matters only on his recommendation.

Quite sweeping indeed. No civil service, no guaranteed tenure there. The so-called "Spoilsman's act" passed by the recent Legislature is by comparison a complete civil service code.

Do the gentlemen who are anxious that the survey and its results be followed subscribe to the policy of one-man autocracy set up by this single recommendation? If so, why a School Board at all?

ELEVENTH-HOUR REFORMS.

John Lind, former special emissary to Mexico, and Administration favorite, became quite eloquent before the House public lands committee on the iniquity of the lieu land or scrip law. Brother Lind, perhaps inadvertently, had previously proved his point by relating a financial romance of which John Lind was the hero.

Eleven years ago, Mr. Lind purchased Northern Pacific scrip at $10 and $11, and located it on Coos County timber land. This land, 2240 acres, which cost him less than $25,000, he sold to C. A. Smith for $100,000. Presumably he got $40,000 in cash and the remainder in notes. The notes were secured by assignment of an executory contract for the purchase of a large tract of railroad grant land the terms of which violated the settlers' clause of the grant.

On suggestion of Mr. Lind the Attorney-General of the United States offered an amendment to the Chamberlain bill which would have confirmed Mr. Lind's title to the grant lands. This land, says Mr. Lind, is worth about $245,000. If the amendment in its original form is adopted, Mr. Lind will clean up about $200,000 on his $25,000 investment in railroad scrip.

Others have seen the bright light of reform under similar circumstances. There was once an eminent single taxer who pointed to his own large fortune as an awful example of the iniquity of unearned increment. But the public did not receive the fortune when death severed his own hold on it.

There is a millionaire stockbroker with a gift of lurid expression who writes bitterly of Wall Street and the system.

An American captain of industry who made his success by application of trust methods and through the benefits of over-protection, has become an anti-trust advocate and an anti-protectionist—now that he has retired with wealth untold.

There might be mentioned other striking cases. But these are enough to illustrate a peculiarity of human nature which it is surprising Mr. Lind did not take into account when he made his Mexican recommendations to the President. Villa as the recognized ruler of Mexico would doubtless be death on bandits.

THE LAST FAINT HOPE.

But one hope now remains that Congress will do anything to strengthen the land defenses of the United States. That hope reposes in the Senate, and it is a slender one. The House has spoken. The President has spoken. Neither intends to do more than treat the whole issue on the basis of pork and political expediency. Their ideas are embodied in the fraudulent Hay bill which Congress has failed to repudiate and which the President has embraced as his own.

No security would be preferable to the Hay brand of security, for it is a false security, designed to lure us into belief that we are defended when we are not. The bill boasts a prospective force of 1,324,790 men. This by counting the Army and National Guard, but principally every one who ever served in either—reserves, which in the cases of men not dead, are scattered to the four winds, with no record of their whereabouts and no means of communicating with them. The surprising thing is that Hay didn't count the Rough Riders, Eighth Army Corps and the Grand Army of the Republic.

What the Senate will do remains to be seen. Possibly not a great deal. The Senate bill as drafted by Senator Chamberlain adopts the plan of the military experts and makes some show of providing an adequate Army. But even if the Senate should insist upon its measure the House, after standing pat on the Hay bill, would hardly give ground. And then, it must be remembered the President's signature is required to the measure finally adopted by Congress.

So at this time the issue is one of little preparedness or no preparedness, of a pork-barrel military policy or a continuation of no policy. The Senate may find itself confronted with the choice of accepting the House Army ideas or of precipitating a fight over preparedness which would wreck the party. But perhaps Americans should not complain too bitterly. An electorate which places a President in power and a Congress in power without asking where they stand on the Nation's honor and the Nation's security may have courted just such a heart-racking spectacle as now confronts us.

STATE POLICE FORCE NEEDED.

One good result of the prospective action of Congress in Federalizing the National Guard and in making it the second line of the National Army is to arouse public opinion in favor of a state police force. Such a force would relieve the National Guard of the duty of suppressing riots, which are most frequent in connection with strikes. That duty is distasteful to Guardsmen and has caused labor unions to place an embargo on enlistment in the militia.

When disorder occurs in connection with strikes, the state authorities are given the alternative of calling out the National Guard or of permitting employers to hire private guards, who are little better than gunmen. Strikers and their friends become inflamed against the militia, which they regard as an army maintained at public expense for the service of employers. They make open war on private guards.

Pennsylvania organized a state constabulary ten years ago to take strike duty off the militia's hands and to preserve order in rural districts, where Sheriffs and Constables are unequal to the task. So great has been the diminution of riot that for nine years the 228 members of the state constabulary have been on strike duty only one day per man each year. Of 1144 arrests made in 1912, only ten were for rioting, while an equal number were for horsestealing, three times as many for trespass and five times as many for burglary. The constabulary prevents riot, while the militia and private guards incite riot, as was proved in Colorado and Michigan.

If the National Guard could be relieved of strike duty and become a purely military body, the opposition of labor unions would then be removed and their members would be willing to undergo military training. The sparsely settled sections of the state, which are now imperfectly policed, would then be well patroled and criminals would be more promptly run down.

BILLIONS OF WASTE.

In surveying casually our millions of uncultivated acres, our limitless undeveloped resources and our unscientific methods of producing, one is led to suspect that the country wastes enough every year to keep the whole civilized world in a greater luxury than that to which it has been accustomed. It would be interesting to know just how much the country does waste or let go to waste each year. The total must run far into billions of dollars. An interesting field this for some energetic statistician. Partial surveys are amazing. A completed table would stagger the country.

Elwood Hendricks, a director of the New York Chemists' Club, has been delving into the topic so far as it relates to a limited number of industries. Mr. Kendricks is one who believes the country should produce its own aniline dyes and that waste should be removed from the category of National sins. He checked over the long leaf yellow pine industry in gathering data for his arguments and guidance and found that waste in this industry is little, if anything, short of criminal.

The mills of the country waste 40,000 tons of paper every day, together with 600,000 gallons of grain alcohol and 300,000 gallons of turpentine. All could be saved by exercising intelligence and thrift. In using coal Americans destroy from 25 to 50 per cent of its value. He contends that 50 per cent of the blast furnace slag which now goes to waste could be converted into Portland cement. As for our waste of petroleum, he points out California, where millions of gallons are consumed annually in generation of power which the waters of the state might easily produce. And the water replaces itself annually, while oil-making processes utilize 100,000 years of nature's time.

One day, of course, we shall be forced by economic pressure to take full cognizance of this waste. But while the country is young and its wealth bounteous America scoffs at the tomorrow and continues its wild career of spending its inheritance from nature's greatest storehouse.

OUR MUDDLED NATIONAL FINANCES.

Senator Weeks has shown beyond dispute that protective tariff does, while a revenue tariff does not, yield adequate revenue. In a speech before the Union League at Philadelphia he stated that during the 194 months of protection under the Dingley and Payne laws customs revenue averaged $22,967,653 a month, while during the 27 months ending June 1, 1915, under the Underwood law it averaged only $19,023,760 a month. During the former period internal revenue yielded $22,534,842, during the latter $34,116,302 a month. The latter figure includes income, corporation and emergency taxes, which were imposed in order to make good the loss in customs revenue and the deficit caused by increased expenditures.

Under Republican administration total revenue averaged $49,886,351 monthly and under the Democrats $58,505,483, but Republican expenditures averaged $47,902,492, leaving a monthly surplus of $1,983,859, while Democratic expenditures averaged $60,070,670, showing a monthly deficit of $1,565,187. Customs revenue has been reduced 15 per cent, internal revenue has been increased 50 per cent and total taxes have increased 18 per cent, but expenses have increased 25 per cent. After allowing for renewal of emergency taxes and of the sugar duty, the next fiscal year will show a deficit of $112,000,000, to which must be added the increase of expenditures on the Army and Navy.

In the face of this deficit the Democrats propose to incur further extraordinary expenses. They plan to spend $40,000,000 on merchant ships, $3,000,000 on the Nicaraguan treaty, $15,000,000 on the Colombian treaty, $25,000,000 on roads and $11,000,000 on an armor plate plant, a total of $94,000,000, which would raise the deficit to $206,000,000.

Notwithstanding the fact that much of the expenditure on preparedness will not need to be duplicated after a few years, when the Army and Navy shall have been brought up to the required strength, President Wilson has announced his opposition to the issue of bonds to meet any part of this expenditure. He even opposes issue of Panama Canal bonds in order to recoup the sums taken from Republican surpluses for construction of that waterway, although return of normal commercial conditions may reasonably be expected to enable the Canal to pay interest and ultimately to create a sinking fund. The Democratic plan is to add $100,000,000 a year to the revenue by increasing the income tax and to trust that something will turn up which will extinguish the further deficit.

When the Republicans resume control of affairs next year, they will find the Nation's finances in a pretty muddle. It will be incumbent upon them to raise revenue and to effect economy which will make good the Democratic deficit and which will at the same time provide adequately for National defense. Their first duty will be to create a tariff commission which shall guide Congress in a revision which will protect industry, develop commerce and at the same time increase revenue. But order can only be introduced into the National finances and waste leading to deficits can only be prevented by a thorough overhauling of the Governmental machine with a view to economy and efficiency, and by adoption of a budget system, as Mr. Weeks suggests.

Beginning April 3 and ending with the issue of April 7—five days—the students of the class of journalism at the University will handle the Eugene Guard in all departments except business and mechanical. This will be a novel exposition of the value of college training for newspaper work. Heretofore students have edited single issues and shown much aptitude. This time they will have opportunity to learn the daily grind and show how they stand up under it.

Judge Kelly, at Albany, holds that a county has not the right to spray a delinquent orchardist's trees until notice has been given the owner. That means personal notice, of course. The custom has been for county inspectors to give notice by publication in local papers. Judge Kelly's ruling is much like splitting a hair, but it stands, and the inspectors now must get busy with their typewriters and typists.

Can the weather-wise tell what effect a wet Winter has on the following Summer? To be sure, next Summer will be the "dryest" Oregon has known, jovially speaking; but in a climatological sense, does excessive moisture in Winter affect the seasons that follow? There is now an excess of more than ten inches of rainfall. This concerns the man who must sign for sprinkling very soon.

Broccoli, like cauliflower, is cousin to the cabbage, and is sometimes termed Winter cauliflower, because of its extreme hardiness and its habit of heading late in cold weather. Interest in it is aroused by shipments just made from Roseburg to Chicago that brought good prices. It should have a place in the family garden.

Suppose the war were suddenly to end—what would Great Britain do with the $91,000,000 worth of beef stew she has ordered in America? But it will not end right away, and Tommy Atkins, Enery 'Awkins, Jean Crapaud and others will continue to live and fight on the fat of this land.

A wealthy woman paid an artist a handsome fee for a portrait and now the artist's wife wants $100,000 from the patron for alienation of the artist's affections. Patronizing high art is an expensive pastime.

Farm labor is better paid in the West and Northwest than elsewhere, say Government reports. But Northwest farms produce so much more that the problem of higher wages is a simple one.

An excellent example in standing by each other is the way physicians testify to the worth of service when one is endeavoring to collect. They beat the lawyers all the time.

The Philippine export trade reached a total of nearly $54,000,000 last year. The Philippines are rapidly becoming an attractive prize for some aggressive power.

Soldiers in the Mexican campaign are suffering fearful hardships. Following a well-mounted and ambitious General is a hard game for the man in the ranks.

There still exist traces of that detestable provincialism which scoffs at the well-intended efforts of fellow townsmen to aid the cause of preparedness.

The parties are moving slowly and cautiously in their convention preliminaries. Probably holding back to see what the other fellow is going to do.

A distillery is to be built at Dallas, which will be shocking news to a "dry" state until it is learned the product will be oil of peppermint.

What if the feet of the co-eds are bad! The feet are not all of them. Their heads are level, and that is enough.

After twenty months of war Britain has not yet solved the problem how to get an army and get it quick.

The style shows in the windows are not all. There is an occasional mirror that reflects something great.

Now that the allies are having a conference at Paris, a fresh crop of wild rumors is due.

Jess Willard says he may never fight again. Wonder what he means "again"?

Tillamook seems to be wetter than Clatsop, which has long borne the record.

These casualties of air and sea are becoming bewildering in their frequency.

Those escapes might at least have waited until Saturday to rub in the joke.

A call for the militia is said to be imminent. That report is four years old.

Maybe some other gentleman desires to put on the gloves with Jess.

If gasoline can be made from sawdust, Oregon has "struck ile."

Following many rainy days, the skies are blueing for April.

Germany is the great exemplar of "Buy at Home."

The Sussex is answer to the Lusitania notes.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

SALUTATORY.

We greet you with the Tuesday gleam,
Designed to give dull care the hook,
To scatter smiles upon life's stream,
And supplement Joe Miller's book.

O ye who suffer from a grouch—
We greet you with the Tuesday gleam,
To shoo the nightmare from your couch
And make the future rosy seem.

Life is but trouble, do you deem?
Are life's illusions dust and chaff?
We greet you with the Tuesday gleam,
And whiff your woes out with a laugh.

For someone has to drop some oil
Upon the cogs of nature's scheme,
And so, amid life's toil and moil—
We greet you with the Tuesday gleam.

* * *

One of our local Sousas, or Strausses, took us to task yesterday on account of our bob-tailed symphony in Sunday's Gleam.

His accusations were unjust.

We did not write it bob-tailed in the first place.

It lost its tail when the compositor tucked it into the Procrustean limits of the colyum.

And here they are, the allegro movement and the finale of our Fishing Symphony:

ALLEGRO CON SPIRITO.

When I was a lad,
I was frequently sad,
And it made me quite gloomy to feel
That in spite of my wish
To fare forth and to fish,
I could not have a swell rod and reel.
For some fanciful flies
I'd have given my eyes,
And I wanted a nice jointed pole
So much to possess,
That I freely confess
I'd have willingly bartered my soul.

But the best I could do
Was an old line or two
That cost about ten cents a roll,
And eye-hook or so
At a penny a throw,
And an old hazel switch for a pole.
But, I'm telling the truth,
In those days of my youth,
My tackle was simple, and yet
I would somehow devise,
Without leader or flies,
To yank out some whoppers, you bet.

The years swiftly soared,
Until I could afford
To lay in a swell set of tackle,
With rod and with line
That were quite superfine,
And hooks clean from spinner to hackle.
But although in the art
I have studied each part
And my casting is clever and quick—
Still I frequently wish
It would snake in the fish
Like I did with that old hazel stick.

POSTLUDE.

"Sir" said the Courteous Office Boy,
And edged around my way,
And gave a cough, "can I get off
Awhile next Saturday?"
I looked him coldly in the eye,
And then I gruffly asked him, "Why?"

He pulled the ancient alibi
Of grandmama's demise,
But all the time I kept my eye
Fixed sternly on his eyes,
And, in those eyes I saw the wish
That people have who like to fish.

And when he'd spun his grandma tale
And all he had to say;
"Can I get off, sir, without fail,"
He asked, "next Saturday?"
"You can," I said, with voice irate,
"And boy—what do you use for bait?"

* * *

SOLEMN THOUGHT.

Soon Wintry weather will depart,
And Springtime come again—
And then the Board of Health will start
A Swat the Fly campaign.

* * *

CONCERNING NAMES.

A shell burst over Archie's head;
He straightway ceased to march;
"The trouble here," the Captain said,
"Must be a fallen Arch."

When Luther came to town one day,
He hit the high spots with a shoot;
By nightfall, we regret to say
That he was but a busted Lute.

They named him Nicholas, forsooth—
A sad misfortune to befall—
For, take it as you will, the youth
Has but a Nick name after all.

When Nathan suffered from ptomaine,
The doctor, sad to state,
Said "I cannot relieve your pain—
Because it is in-Nate."

When Edward left the country press,
And went to town, his father said:
"The boy is rising fast, I guess—
Already he's a City Ed."

Oh, never tell Eliza aught,
If your veracity you prize;
If by the neighbors you are caught,
They'll know that you are telling Lize.

* * *

THE SNOWS OF YESTERYEAR.

What has become of the fellow who used to corner you in front of the bulletin board and explain to you the correct way to pronounce Przemysl?

* * *

THE GREAT WAR SERIAL.

We have received a number of queries as to the outcome of the great war serial, "When the Dove Bit the Eagle," and in response to these, we desire to announce that we may possibly decide to run the concluding chapters in the Tuesday Gleam.

Before doing so, however, we wish to call our readers' attention to the fact that the story has reached a point where the casualties are likely to be exceedingly heavy.

In view of this we are going to offer our readers an unparalleled opportunity.

Have you anyone in particular whom you would like to remove promptly from the fabric of society?

Now is you opportunity!

The casualty lists for the concluding chapters of the great serial will be opened for contributions immediately.

Haste is essential, as the final battle is approaching, and it may be necessary to close these casualty lists at any moment without notice.

* * *

THE FLUTES OF SPRING.

I do not fear the windy sprites
That rush about the eaves,
And fling the rain and spin the vane,
And tweak the baby leaves.
For through the gusty song they sing
I hear the fairy flutes of Spring.

The goblins of the hail ride out
Across the shining roofs
In driving hosts like boisterous ghosts;
I hear the pattering hoofs;
But sure, through all their tumult, ring
The far-off piping flutes of Spring.

Like Orpheus through the woods she glides
Upon the sunbeam's slant;
The soft wind purrs, the water stirs,
The frogs their welcome chant,
And blossoms on the branches swing,
Dancing to fairy flutes of Spring.

Logic of Her Lover.

Boston Transcript.

Marie—But my dear, are you sure he is not considering your money in proposing to you?

Edith—Quite sure! He said only last night he never thought of that; he simply knew I had it and that was all he cared.

OREGON SYSTEM PUZZLES WOMAN.

Perplexed Why Prohibitionists Can't Vote in Primaries.

PORTLAND, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly explain to one who has never yet been a voter, a puzzling problem concerning registration?

Coming here from the Atlantic Coast, where women are not yet allowed to vote, I supposed the path to the polls in Portland would be very simple, indeed; yet when a few weeks ago I went to register, I confronted a situation which, to say the least, seems most unfair. I was asked what were my politics, and replied that I was a Prohibitionist.

"But you can't register as a Prohibitionist and vote at the primaries," I was told. I asked why, and it was explained that there were not enough Prohibitionists to have a ticket, and that although I might vote in the Fall for President, I couldn't this Spring vote in the primaries. Yet we are earnestly told that voting in the primaries is the important thing to do. I was not willing to register with any of the parties that nationally uphold the liquor traffic, and could not conscientiously do so. I registered as a Prohibitionist, and am told that I have disfranchised myself so far as the primaries are concerned. Is that true? and if so, is it right? Would a Republican like to be told that he could not vote at the primaries unless he registered as a Democrat?

A voter is not under obligation to vote with the majority, but I thought he was under obligation to vote his convictions. If there is no Prohibition ticket printed here, why not? With enough Prohibition votes to oust the liquor traffic, not only from the city but the entire state as well, why should not we be entitled to a ticket expressing our wish to help other state secure prohibition, and the Nation also?

In this morning's Oregonian you report to date 749 who have registered as Prohibitionists. This is 353 more than the Progressives and 274 more than the Socialists.

The Progressive party was new four years ago, and the Prohibition party is more than a quarter of a century old. Why should we not have a ticket here?

Is there no way that I may vote in the primaries without lying as to my politics? If not there is gross injustice somewhere. MRS. C. E. B.

The correspondent is in need of more instruction and information on political party government than The Oregonian can give in answer to an inquiry. It may be stated briefly, however, that the primary election is merely a method of nominating candidates for office and is a substitute for conventions. In this state the primary is the equivalent of three elections. The Republicans have their own ballot, the Democrats their own ballot and the Progressives their own ballot. Each ballot is but a list of names of the men or women who wish to become the party candidates at the general election. Each adherent of each party chooses from his own ballot list the ones he desires to see become his own party's candidates in the Fall. No convictions are expressed except indirectly by the act of affiliating with one's own party.

The Prohibitionists have the widest, freest opportunity to nominate candidates for office. They are merely required to pursue another method. They may nominate by holding an assembly or convention.

Party entrance into the primaries is not governed by registration nor by a nonpartisan vote on a constitutional amendment, but by the vote cast for Presidential electors. When a party's candidates for Presidential elector receive 20 per cent of all the votes cast in the state for that office that party in the next election must nominate candidates by the direct primary method. The Progressives cast more than 20 per cent of the state vote for President in 1912, while the Prohibitionists did not.

The theory on which small minority parties are required to nominate by another method is that there is no incentive for contest over nominations within their ranks. To admit them to the primary would merely mean a perfunctory vote at added expense to the taxpayers and to the candidates of those parties. The convention method in their case is easier, more satisfactory and not productive of the corruption that caused abolishment of the larger parties' conventions.

MEXICAN CHAOS SHOULD END

Conditions South of Border Declared Disgrace to Civilization.

PORTLAND, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—There has been considerable discussion through the public press in regard to President Lincoln's and President Wilson's Mexican policies.

It doesn't really make any difference what Lincoln did in regard to the matter a half a century ago. We are under a different day and age of civilization and it certainly is our duty to put an end to that Mexican hell hole.

Mexico has been in a continual warfare and uproar for the past 50 years, and it is a menace to the honor of this Nation and civilization.

The Mexican people have shown that they are not capable of self-government and it is our duty to establish a just, stable government.

How long would Europe tolerate such a nuisance? EDWIN A. LINSCOTT.

Loganberry Plants to Acre.

PORTLAND, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me how many loganberry plants should be set to the acre and at what time of the year should they be set, and where could they be had? CONSTANT READER.

The best number of loganberry plants per acre varies from 950 on rather weak soil to 540 or even fewer on very rich soil. The former number provides for plants eight apart in rows six feet apart, and the latter for plants 10 feet apart in rows eight feet apart. They are usually set out in the Spring at about the time other nursery stock is planted. The young plants should be well rooted and of sufficient size for handling when taken from the parent cane, but the planting should be done before Summer drouth gets too near. Plants can be had from most standard nurseries of the loganberry district of the Pacific Northwest, and often from growers who make a specialty of propagation.

For more detailed information write to Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, for experiment station circular, "The Loganberry in Oregon."

Pay of Convicts.

ASTORIA, Or., March 25.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Do convicts in the Oregon Penitentiary receive any per cent of their earnings? (2) Was not there a time when they just received a fixed amount when discharged? If so, what was this amount? A READER.

(1) Convicts receive 25 cents a day on any work they do which is remunerative to the prison. Convicts "loaned" to counties for work on roads, etc., are paid 50 cents a day and receive their clothes and board from the county employing them. (2) Convicts have always been given $5 upon their discharge from prison, and also whatever money they may have had when they were received.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 28, 1891.

Berlin, March 27.—Friends of Prince Bismarck denounce as utterly untrue the published story that he once proposed to France through the late Prince Napoleon to divide Western Europe between Prussia and France.

Sofia, March 27.—This evening while Premier Stambuloff and Minister of Finance Baitschieff were out walking, a man suddenly confronted them and fired three shots from a revolver, killing Baitschieff instantly.

New York, March 27.—Charles Arbuckle, the millionaire coffee merchant, is dead. His remains will be cremated in Pittsburg.

The annual meeting of the Portland Speed Association was held last night. There were present President E. S. Rothchild, Vice-President William Frazier, Secretary S. A. Gunst, Treasurer C. M. Forbes, P. Powers and R. C. Smith.

It would seem that Sheridan Knowles' grand tragedy of "Virginius" as presented by Mr. Warde had been played so often here as to lessen the audiences at each performance, but, on the contrary, the third night of this present engagement the curtain rose on a larger house than any, save that on the opening night.

To consolidate or not to consolidate is a question that is receiving the profound attention of every citizen of Portland, East Portland and Albina.

The Multnomah Driving Association will hold its annual meeting tonight. Steps will probably be taken toward improving the Riverside road and the county will be asked to assist the association in improving the only driveway Portland has in the Summer.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 28, 1866.

The time is approaching when it will become necessary for the Board of Councilmen of this city to establish fire limits, designating lines within which wooden structures shall not be built.

A band of about 20 Indians near Boise City were killed by a party of citizens, who found that the Indians were supplying other Indians with arrow-points and powder to war upon the whites.

The Richmond Examiner still speaks of Washington as the "Yankee Capital."

A man was thrown from a buggy on Front street yesterday afternoon, striking the pavement with considerable force, in consequence of his horse becoming unmanageable.

The Council lately passed a law that was useful in ridding the city of a surplus number of worthless curs, but they are not all gone yet. A very worthy member of the Council found this out yesterday when he fell across the back of a fat ratter on First street.

There is really no more attractive place in the city, nor one calculated for a more profitable investment of a few hours daily to the man in ladies' leisure, than the rooms of the Portland Library Association on First street.

The Zouave Cadets, under command of Captain Williams, will visit Ross Island this morning by the steamer Senator, returning in the afternoon, for the purpose of practicing target exercise.

The new submarine telegraph cable, connecting Portland with the East Side, was successfully laid yesterday by Dr. Plummer. We may look for uninterrupted communication with points north.

Termination of Fleas.

CORVALLIS, Or., March 26.—(To the Editor.)—I am writing to you to find out if you can advise me as to a sure method of getting rid of fleas on a farm. Do they suck all of their food? Do they object to any odor, such as that of mothballs? If you know of any method of flea destruction, I would be much pleased to have you print the same. SUBSCRIBER.

The most effectual method of eliminating fleas is to keep places frequented by them thoroughly cleaned, using boiling hot water or dusting frequently with pyrethrum powder, especially in the crevices and openings where dust and dirt may be lodged.

If desirable, a decoction may be made consisting of one ounce of pyrethrum powder to one gallon of water, which is to be boiled for ten minutes, filtered or strained, and the liquid sprinkled into all infested places. Old floors, mattings and carpets favor the development of fleas because the young larvae easily penetrate the crevices and interstices, where they develop undisturbed. To destroy them in the adult stage, use the pyrethrum powder method; for the larvae benzine freely sprinkled about the cracks and crevices may be tried.

Both these methods failing, it may be necessary to remove all carpets and hangings and scrub thoroughly with hot soapsuds.

They are readily stupefied by dusting pyrethrum powder into the hair of animals upon which they may occur. The fleas will fall off while stupefied and should be immediately swept up and burned. The sleeping places of infested animals should be carefully provided with straw matting or a piece of carpet, as they can be readily shaken into the open fire and the eggs, larvae and fleas, with which they are usually covered, destroyed.

Fleas depend upon blood of warm-blooded mammals and birds, more particularly the former. Mothballs seem to have very little effect upon them.

No Legal Way to Collect.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., March 25.—(To the Editor.)—In 1909 I subscribed for a county paper and paid for it to 1911 and hold receipt for same. The subscription was not renewed, and although said paper has changed hands three different times since that time, it has been coming to my address and I have taken it out of the box and read it.

Now, present proprietor is trying to collect payment for back subscription. Can he make me pay? A SUBSCRIBER.

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