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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1916.

A SQUARE DEAL TO CAPITAL.

A remarkable example of returning sanity in the attitude of the public toward public service corporations has been offered recently at Lewiston, Idaho, and the communities which cluster around it. A Spokane engineer went before the Lewiston City Council and offered for a contingent fee to obtain from the State Public Service Commission a reduction in rates for electric current. The Council promptly accepted the offer. Much to its surprise, apparently, the whole community arose in protest. The people declared that they were satisfied with existing rates, that the Lewiston-Clarkston Company gave fair consideration to complaints, that it had voluntarily given reductions, and that, when they considered further reductions justified, they would make the application themselves, not call in an outsider. They said that they wished to encourage investment of capital by fair treatment, not to scare it away by denying a fair income. The Council headed the protest, rescinded its former action and refused to make the contract.

The attitude of the people in this case received hearty approval from the newspapers of Lewiston and Boise, which pointed out that stagnation in development of Idaho, as of other states in the Pacific Northwest, is due to the excesses to which regulation and taxation of corporations have been carried. Being denied a fair return on their capital, investors have blacklisted these states and the people suffer through lack of development.

With the general establishment by Nation and states of commissions with full power to regulate the charges and practices of public service corporations, the reason for public hostility to these corporations has been removed. The only reasons for this hostility which ever existed were the speculation, overcapitalization, extortion, oppression, secret and corrupt interference in politics which they formerly practiced. Public regulation has practically done away with these evils.

Direct legislation in the Pacific states has made corporations powerless in politics except so far as they, alike with other citizens, appeal openly to the people's reason and sense of justice. Corporations generally have accepted this new situation. They frankly submit to regulation and accept their position as public servants. They seek to influence legislation by open appeals to public opinion under their own names. Whenever corporations or their officials offend against the laws, the people have the means ready to hand for bringing them to justice.

Fair dealing by the corporations having been assured, justice and the public interest require fair dealing by the public toward corporations. The mere fact that they are corporations does not excuse denial of fair treatment, for, after all, corporations are simply aggregations of individuals who have invested their money in public service. The public interest requires fair treatment, for the operations of corporations are the only practicable means by which large enterprises for development of the country can be carried out. If by being denied adequate rates or by excessive taxation, corporations are prevented from earning a fair profit, capitalists will not buy their securities, will invest their money elsewhere and development of the country will be prevented or seriously retarded. Capital is free to go anywhere it pleases; if it does not like the terms we offer, it will not accept our opportunities for investment.

It is high time that the people of Oregon as well as other Pacific states changed their attitude toward corporations to accord with the changed attitude of corporations toward them. Prosperity in the East is creating a vast supply of new capital. It will come here if we turn a deaf ear to schemers like the man who made the proposition to Lewiston. The anti-corporation cry will soon die if the politicians find it is unpopular. If we continue to heed it, this new capital will go to other states and other countries. It does not need to come here. The United States now has practically the only supply of capital available for the whole world, and the investor will put it anywhere in the United States, Europe, South America or other countries where he can get good interest and security. We can get it if we offer the same attractions. We need entertain no fear that, if it comes, it will be used to oppress us. We are able to limit its profits to a fair return on the actual cash investment and to protect ourselves against any injustice. Let us silence the demagogues and invite capital to come in by giving it a square deal.

IN THE HOUR OF EXTREMITY.

Someone has remarked that it is dangerous to go through life without a religion. Many a scoffer has come to feel the true force of that statement. Life runs smoothly, the blessings of good health and sound nerves abound and the disbeliever finds mental recreation in his theories and arguments against the accepted beliefs of men. Ill health comes, or disaster, and to what sustaining influence may the agnostic turn in his extremity? Without the comforting influences of faith — influences which are so strangely potent that conventional explanations of the phenomena by scientific men admittedly fail—the acute crises of life are met with poor grace.

Horatio W. Bottomley must have come lately to a crsis in his life when the tenets of agnosticism rose to mock him in his misery. Mr. Bottomley, as many may recall, is the editor of a British freethinking periodical which has railed against the institutions of God and man alike. Bruised and bleeding from the rough journey over life's stony, thorny path, he, too, found that in his point of view, his state of mind, there was no sustaining influence. Without tracing the logic which caused him to abandon his disbeliefs and raileries, one sentence may be selected from his statement of the case:

"Pure rationalism, however 'scientific,' has no word of comfort for weary watchers or of solace for human hearts."

This is the cruel breaker upon which many a bark of agnosticism has been wrecked. So long as all goes well agnostic or freethinker or infidel or rank iconoclast finds delight in his savage logic. But in the hour of stress he learns the unstable menace of his craft; finds that in his attitude toward life "there is no word of comfort for weary watchers or of solace for human hearts."

SAVE THE HIGHWAY.

A road 100 feet in width offers no protection to innocent travelers when drunkenness and recklessness are at large. The Columbia Highway pavement is but eighteen feet wide, but there is ample room for vehicles to pass if ordinary care is observed. Doubtless the time will not come when there will be complete freedom from accident on the road, even when it is thoroughly policed, and when the traveling public has generally a purpose to observe traffic rules.

The accident on the Columbia Highway on Sunday was deplorable. If current accounts are correct, whisky was at the bottom of the affair. A worthy woman, on a motorcycle, guided by a man who evidently was moving within his rights, was run down by an automobile. There is abundant testimony that the occupants of the motorcar, or some of them, had been drinking freely. Now several men are under arrest, and two women are involved in the notoriety which has grown out of the episode.

Evidently the public may be protected in its safe use of the Columbia Highway only with vigilant action by Sheriff Hurlburt and his deputies, and with adequate punishment by the courts for proven transgressions. It ought to be known to every driver of a motorcar or motorcycle or other vehicle that he will be held to stern accountability for any infraction of the law by speeding or careless driving. In that way only can the Highway be saved for the law-abiding public and rescued from the speeders and joy-riders.

THE JURY AND THE COUNCIL.

While the subjects are fresh in the public mind, let us review two events of the past week in the city of Portland.

A former saloonkeeper was tried on a charge of violating the prohibition law. Prior to January 1, 1916, the business in which he was engaged was not criminal. The people by majority vote inhibited the business. A large number of voters, but a minority nevertheless, believe the business should not have been inhibited. A jury to try the accused was selected apparently from that minority. The jury disregarded the people's will, and the evidence in the case, and set free the defendant.

A year or two ago the people of Portland by a majority vote instructed the City Council not to purchase water meters. A large number of persons, but a minority nevertheless, believe that water meters should be purchased. A majority of the Council are of that mind, at least they believe that meters should be purchased for those who want them. The majority of the Council overruled the majority of the people and bought a large number of meters.

The only difference in the two cases is that in one the people and the Legislature went through the formality of writing a definite prohibitive statute with penalties attached for its violation. In the other no formal, written law was enacted.

For our part we are unable to discern wherein transfer of certain characters from type to a page of paper enhances the sanctity of a known moral obligation. The will of the majority has been expressed as clearly in one instance as in the other. In each case the people had entrusted the execution of their will to a body of citizens. In each instance that body had the power to overrule the people's judgment. In each case it did just that.

It is significant that the betrayals followed in close order. And why not? Why should not a jury of plain citizens look for guidance to men honored with high position? The Council argues that if the people had had opportunity they would have made a special exception of meters for those who want them. Likely as not the jury argued that if the people had had opportunity they would have made an exception of uptown gentlemen's saloons. The public-be-damned spirit is quite infectious.

A RESULT OF PINCHOTISM.

The logical sequel to withdrawal of large areas of the public domain from sale is the demand that the Government undertake enterprises which would otherwise be taken up by corporations. An example is the withdrawal from entry of the San Juan coalfield in Southwestern Colorado and Northwestern New Mexico. A bill has been introduced in Congress for construction of a railroad through this coal field to connect the Santa Fe and Rio Grande systems.

As usual with every such scheme to divert public funds to purposes which should properly be carried out by private enterprise, the plea is made that National defense would be aided, as the coal would become available for the Pacific squadron, but the main contention is that by withdrawing the land in the San Juan country from sale, the Government has withdrawn it from taxation and has imposed on owners of thirteen per cent of the area ninety-nine per cent of the burden of government for the whole.

Thus the policy of reservation leads to new demands on the Government. It cannot remain a perpetual landlord without incurring, in the popular mind, the obligation to develop its holdings. It has recognized that obligation in Alaska by building a railroad, and the San Juan people now cite that precedent in support of their scheme. There is no reason other than the artificial condition produced by the policy of reservation why the Government should build this railroad. If the coal land were thrown open to development and if the timber were thrown on the market, business sense would cause the owners of railroads to extend into this field.

If the Government is to be called upon to build railroads into every undeveloped section of the country in order to connect roads which have stopped short, Oregon has as good a claim as Colorado. Uncle Sam might take up Mr. Strahorn's scheme for a road in Central Oregon to fill the gap which has been left between the Deschutes roads on the north, the Klamath road on the south, the Pacific & Eastern on the west and the Oregon Eastern on the east. Were the Nation and state to aid irrigation, private enterprise would readily undertake this work. By withholding its aid, the Government causes private enterprise to hold back and may instigate a demand that it step in.

Other sections of Oregon and the west are in the same position. None is more striking than the case of Klamath Falls, which has long dreamed of direct rail outlet to northern markets. The route—the Natron cut-off—lies principally in a great reserve, where no local traffic is promised for many miles of expensive construction. Hence the railroads, when they have money for new work, build elsewhere.

If the Government continues to hold public land in reservation, it will be importuned with many pleas like that from San Juan. Should it yield, it will become owner of a number of short stretches of railroad and have a new problem on its hands.

THE CHIEF CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

Senator Harding's assertion that the tariff will be the chief issue of the coming Presidential campaign is supported by the latest report of the Commerce Department on our foreign trade. Beginning with last November there has been a monthly increase in imports. Each month showed a gain over the month preceding. The total for February was $193,935,117, against $149,172,729 for October.

Equally significant is the fact that for the eight months ending February the imports free of duty increased $244,070,165, while the imports of dutiable goods decreased $8,617,684. More than two-thirds of our imports now enter duty free. We have sacrificed our principal source of revenue while vastly increasing expenses, and have thrown down the bars of foreign competition. For the time being we are relieved from the consequences to our posterity by the wealth which munition trade is pouring in upon us and by the boom in general foreign trade resulting from the warlike preoccupation of competing nations.

The war will no sooner be ended than our artificial source of prosperity will be stopped and European competition for trade in both domestic and foreign markets will be renewed with fierce intensity. It is extremely probable that the war will end during the next Presidential term. It will therefore devolve upon the President and Congress elected next November to provide means of protecting our domestic markets against this competition and of fostering our foreign trade. That task requires qualities of statesmanship in which the Democratic party has shown itself to be conspicuously lacking. Our only other resource is to the Republican party.

BRITAIN'S MANY CAMPAIGNS.

John Bull feels the burden of empire through finding it necessary to conduct half a dozen simultaneous campaigns in widely scattered fields, while his allies conduct only one or two each. France confines operations to its own territory and the Balkans, Russia to its western and southern fronts, Italy to its northern and eastern frontier and Albania, but Britain has several armies in the field besides the main forces in France and at Salonica.

In order to protect its African colonies from invasion, Britain conducts an aggressive war in German East Africa. To protect Egypt it makes war on the Arabs to the west and on the Turks on the Suez peninsula to the east. Aden is protected by an expedition against the Arab and Turkish forces in the neighboring section of Arabia. The expedition into Mesopotamia was undertaken primarily to guard British holdings in Persia and along the Persian Gulf and the caravan route to India against Turkish invasion and German intrigue. Its early success encouraged its extension northward with Bagdad as the objective until its advance was checked by superior Turkish forces.

To the necessity of thus scattering its forces as well as to its utter unreadiness for a war of such magnitude is due the minor part which Britain has taken in the main land operations.

SUPPRESSING THE CYCLONE.

Slowly but surely the steely grip of a heartless censorship is throttling the oratorical soul of Congressman "Cyclone" Davis. There must be a universal conspiracy against the untamed human hurricane from Texas, for his last staunch friend of publicity has forsaken him in the hour of his extremity and now his ravings are destined to reverberate only within the restricted walls of the House.

"Cyclone" does not hesitate to throw himself bodily upon a buzz saw when it happens to annoy him or excite his ire. His practice is to make up in noise and vituperation what he lacks in poise and erudition. When he unleashes the cyclonic fury that is part and parcel of the Davis temperament Congress shakes with inward mirth, if not with fear. It is entertainment of the highest order and it used to make good "copy" for the correspondents before the outbreaks became commonplace. Gradually the correspondents dropped him, not only because of the frequency of his brainstorms, but because his wrath usually centered itself upon some trifling sectional issue upon which not more than a dozen persons were interested.

It is reported that "Cyclone" took this slight to heart and was aroused to an assault on the perversity of a press which must be subsidized, since it failed to quote him liberally and frequently. The paper of his own home town, the Houston Post, attracted his special displeasure, and so he arose not long ago to declare war to the end on the editors and publishers of that sheet. "I now give the Houston Post notice," he shrieked, "that I will serve God and humanity by exposing the venom of its venal attacks in the Congressional Record, a paper that does not belong to the 'kept press,' but belongs to the people and speaks the truth as their sworn Representatives see it."

Whereupon he launched into a spasm of denunciation. He directed attack upon the correspondent of the Post and delivered a grilling that must have put the fires of Hades to shame for intensity. Then something happened. Something much similar to the blow that is currently reputed to have brought about the demise of paterfamilias. The Congressional Record got its blue pencils into action and the final record of the Cyclone's assault on the Post is this enlightening paragraph: "Now comes one so-called Upshur Vincent, in a letter from Washington to the Houston Post, who uncaps . . . page, says I slandered Jeff Davis. I deny it in toto."

Thus the monster of special privilege has smothered his one lone line of publicity. He has announced a speaking tour as soon as Congress adjourns. Then he can express his revised opinion of the "subsidized" Congressional Record.

A small American Army, far in the interior of Mexico, having a line of communication with its base 400 miles long, is not in a very safe position. There are in its rear and on all sides Mexican forces which are only ostensibly friendly and which might turn against it and cut it off completely. As it penetrates farther into the country, it may find the population less friendly and will have more Carranza forces in its rear. How little real aid it can expect from Carranza we may judge from his refusal to permit the use of the railroads, though the war has reduced these roads to such miserable condition that this handicap may be less than it seems. In the dubious friendship of Carranza and his chiefs and in the appearance on the scene of new guerrilla leaders like Felix Diaz and Salazar, there are the elements of just such treachery as twice overwhelmed British armies in Afghanistan. By thrusting his hand into the Mexican hornets' nest, President Wilson may have committed himself to a war with the entire swarm of Mexican hornets. His realization of this danger, in conjunction with his known aversion to effective armed intervention, may explain the rumors that he intends to recall General Pershing's army and to be content with having dispersed Villa's band. Should he do so, the band would probably reassemble and renew its depredations. Half measures will never succeed in Mexico.

Out of 11,849 men who have sought entrance to the Army under the recent call for 20,000 volunteers but 2879 have been accepted. What is wrong with American physical standards that so few are fit for military duty? And what is wrong with our system of recruitment that only 2879 men have been raised in an emergency requiring 20,000? The answer is that we must come to universal service before getting anywhere.

Secretary Daniels will expedite the construction of new ships for the Navy if he will avoid asking for bids on ships which cannot be built. An appropriation for seagoing submarines lies idle because he stipulated for 20-knot boats, which are impossible. Mr. Daniels did not need to be a naval expert in order to avoid this blunder; he only needed horse sense.

Ever since the early days of Brigham Young, Mormon presidents have attacked the styles of female dress and chided their womenfolk for following and imitating their Gentile sisters. As they did not desist in the days of their servitude, President Smith cannot hope for much in their later enlightened period.

The war has squeezed the water out of the capital of the International Mercantile Marine Company, one of the most water-logged of the Morgan trusts, and has replaced aqua pura with gold. The receiver would do well to use the profits in paying debts before peace again turns them into water.

One of the most interesting races in the history of Pacific Coast sport is that between the builders of the interstate bridge and the Columbia River floods. We back the bridge builders.

Roosevelt for President, with Root for Secretary of State, is a combination now predicted. At any rate, such a combination would safeguard Americans and their rights abroad.

British peace advocates would do well to organize and go armed in order to prevent warlike attack. But perhaps they prefer to be consistent, even at the cost of broken skulls.

A serum has been discovered which resuscitates the apparently drowned four hours after animation has been suspended. Modern medical science will be raising the dead yet.

Texas is a big state and heavy frost and thin ice in the northern part are mere incidents. In some portions of Oregon there is frost in July, but nobody worries.

Gold nuggets have been unearthed in Helena streets. So the Helena authorities will do well to keep an eye on local prospectors during nighttime.

Traffic will not be disturbed by giving streets of short blocks to the boys and girls for rinks. The fact is, they must have something of the kind.

Congress now takes up work on the Navy bills. Too bad the G. O. P. isn't in power these days, when vigorous, farsighted policies are needed.

It is a safe assertion to say a roadhouse is not built for holding religious services. Sheriff Hurlburt's deputies do well to watch it.

Philadelphians who read the news on paper made in Oregon will not know that fact, but will know they have a good article.

Carranza soldiers are reported to be "helping in a limited way." Probably to the extent of helping consume American rations.

"Texas has killing frost," says a headline, but the item does not refer in any way to the Pershing invasion of Mexico.

Rain on the change of the moon yesterday means fine weather for opening day and the 20,000.

Discussion of fees for marriage is away off the track. That money belongs to the minister's wife.

While Winter thrives in the East, the worst we get is a series of passing April showers.

Von Papen is visiting Holland. Then Holland will do well to keep a weather eye open.

The bark has gone from that city woodpile, but the bite is still in the affair.

Mexico is going to fix prices on necessaries, when it gets them on hand.

If everybody laid up with a cold like Wilson, there would not be much done.

A persistent peace propagandist was mobbed by a London crowd. Hurray!

One trip over the Columbia Highway makes the man a booster.

Of course, Cummins got Iowa yesterday.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

BALLADE OF THE REFORMING SMOKER.

Tobacco is a filthy weed,
Or so by certain friends I'm told,
It makes ope early run to seed,
And makes a man untimely old
"Within the sweet Havana's fold"
"Lurks death," they say, "without a doubt!"
Whereat, I feel my spine turn cold.
Perhaps I ought to cut it out.

A woman of the C. T. U.,
In whom much confidence I've placed;
Attacks me from an angle new,
Namely; the economic waste.
The panatella, slim and chaste,
Drives thrift into dispairing rout,
And pauperism comes in haste.
Perhaps I ought to cut it out.

Yet firm the bonds of habit cling,
Each bond as sweet as maid's caress,
And ah, I hate like anything
To break from such a sweet duress;
Each day, each hour I must confess,
Their tender charm becomes more stout,
Their hold more sure upon me—yes.
Perhaps I ought to cut it out.

L'ENVOI.

Still, 'tis election year, you know.
Campaign cigars are all about.
Stay! I'll postpone reform, although
Perhaps I ought to cut it out.

* * *

"Sir," said the Courteous Office Boy, appearing at the door with the gore of a mangled telephone transmitter dripping from his tusks.

"Yes," my son, "I replied soothingly.

"Did not Pope, the Pote, remark on some occasion; 'Whatever is, is right'?" snarled the C. O. B.

"Even so," I crooned.

"Well, between man and man," cried the C. O. B., "do you reckon that this guy Pope ever spent 15 minutes jiggling the hook to get central and then had her come on the line just long enough to say: 'They don't answer,' and then fade out again? Huh?"

SOLEMN THOUGHT.

Old Grimes is dead, that good old man,
Or so the songsters tell;
Old Grimes and other good old men—
And I'm not feeling well.

THE SNOWS OF YESTERYEAR.

What has become of the young lady who used to beg you to save the cunning little silk rugs out of your pack of cigarettes, for her to use in a patchwork sofa cushion?

(Note and appendix to the above: She's saving them for herself now out of her own pack of cigarettes.)

JUST ONE MORE OF THOSE NAMES.

William, father's favorite son,
To litigation still
Would go; his lawsuits, one by one,
Have broken father's will.

NOT SO HEFTY.

We heard Fred Spoeri talking the other day about the great amount of effort, material, etc., that was required to make the telephone directory the interesting piece of literature which it is.

We think he was bluffing, for we went out into the hall and took a look at the telephone book he was bragging about.

And, 'pon our word of honor, although it contained five Reams, there were but 17 Pages in it.

And when all is said and done, the bulky volume contains but four Words.

AND YET NAMES.

William and Wayland are twins, you know,
And always together the youngsters go,
Until the neighbors have come to say
That where there's a Will there is always a Way.

—Contributed by P. F.

THE GREAT CRYPTOGRAM.

And out there over miles of street,
The thin fingers of the light
Start tickling at the fat ribs of night.
Lovers gather beneath them to say good-bye,
And John Gould Fletcher, prowling solitary,
Hears far away the generator turning:
Whoom! Whoom! its solemn approval.
—Free verse poem by John Gould Fletcher, in the March number of the Poetry Journal.

THAT WAR SERIAL.

While our free casualty lists for the final battle in "When the Dove Bit the Eagle," remain open and while we have received hundreds of names for the lists, we have found nobody yet who is willing to let his name appear as sponsor for the list he sends in.

One reader, a student we take it, suggests from Clatskanie, that the principal of the school be included in the final fatalities—but the writer will not give her name, and accordingly we cannot put the principal on our published list of dead and dying.

The free casualty lists will positively close this week and we must urge haste on the part of all who desire to get their friends on them.

WHIXTON G. HOTAIRE, Author.

P. S.—The following was received just the other day: "Sir—In your coming battle, kill off some of the candidates who hang around editorial rooms. I would submit list but for intuitive feeling that the slain would yell because declared dead before the primary, while the survivors would complain at being left out and the consequent loss of publicity.

"BORED POLITICAL WRITER."

THE SHORTEST POEM.

A young lady—we judge from the perfumed stationery and the delicate chirography—writes to ask us if we can tell her what is the shortest pome in the English language.

We can.

There are several of 'em.

For instance, there is that old one:

Miss;
Kiss;
Bliss.

Does anybody else know a shorter one?

We do.

Later we might tell you, if you can't guess.

Property in Wife's Name.

ASTORIA, Or., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—A man, for financial reasons, deeds his home to his wife. In later years they separate, but there is no divorce. The wife supports the children and pays taxes on the home in which she lives. If she makes a will leaving the property to the children at her death, will it stand according to law, without the husband signing the instrument? CONSTANT READER.

No. The husband is entitled to his "curtesy, or "life interest," in one-half the property.

T. R.'S AMERICANISM IS ADMIRED

Man Who Supported Taft in 1912 Now Strong for Roosevelt.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with interest what C. H. Moores has to say in The Sunday Oregonian about the nomination of Roosevelt.

Mr. Moores would like to pick a candidate who gave offense to none. He would apparently like a pussy foot, a nonentity—one who would try to please and suit everybody. That class of politics is past. The right or wrong of a question or issue should be the dividing line between parties as between men.

Roosevelt is the only man among those mentioned for the nomination who has expressed himself on the great vital issues before the American public today. In fact he has created public sentiment about them. He did not pussyfoot or sidestep these great questions for fear of treading on somebody's corns. No! He spoke right out in meeting and like a man fought for the side he thought he was right. Before speaking he did not divide the United States into geographical sections to know whom he pleased and whom he did not. With him it was a question of right and wrong.

Roosevelt is a burning living issue himself. I voted for Taft against Roosevelt in 1912. I liked the genial smile of Taft. I was for party regularity. But the rank and file of the Republicans wanted Roosevelt and the leaders know it. Down in their hearts they know Roosevelt was in the right.

Roosevelt is the logical candidate for 1916. He is a real live candidate, too, not a dead one—nor a nonentity. He would make us respected at home and abroad. What do we know about Hughes? Where does he stand on the great, burning, living issues that confront us today? What have the other prospective candidates said or written on these living issues? We know where Roosevelt stands. He is for the United States first, last and all the time. He would not allow the flag to be insulted through cowardice. American lives and property would be protected abroad and swift judgment would come to those who trespassed upon American rights.

Time has shown that his methods of dealing with big business are popular. He stands for justice to labor and the working man. His was the first voice for preparedness; he the first and best advocate for preparedness. Roosevelt awoke the public conscience in politics. He is the prophet of America. No enthusiasm would center on Hughes or Root if nominated. Roosevelt if nominated would separate the sheep from the goats and a "hot time in the old town" would follow. He would be elected, too.

Mr. Moores need not fear for the popularity of Roosevelt. He has made enemies; but for every enemy he has made two friends. Give Roosevelt a square deal, give him a chance with the other candidates, and if the convention seems to be for him, let the dead past bury its dead; forget our disagreement in 1912 and stand behind him a reunited party. If Roosevelt is elected things will be doing every minute. The prestige of the United States will grow greater and greater; our country no longer an infant in swaddling clothes will have a say in the politics that rule the world.

JOHN C. ROSS, M. D.

THINKS AMERICA WOULD DO SAME

Any Tactics to Preserve National Existence Are Excusable.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—Coming from the East to a city of the Northwest, and particularly to Portland, one is at once impressed with the predominating features of this part of the world. One can but marvel at the grandeur of the scenery, rivers, shrubbery, flowers and birds. Speaking specifically of Portland, is it not a matter of fact that this city is practically free from slums? Its clean streets, its highways well kept, its parks artistically laid out, one can but admire the City of Roses.

Furthermore, the geographical position of Portland is such, if brought to full realization of its citizens, as will eventually make it the foremost city of the Pacific Northwest.

However, one thing made my heart sad, viz: The unneutral attitude of our English press toward a nation which has, in good and evil days, been America's best friend. Being born on English soil and my father on French, no one can accuse me of pro-Germanism. On the other hand, I consider it an unneutral act constantly to browbeat a nation which has at all times demonstrated her friendship, in time of war and in time of peace, to the United States.

Furthermore, are we not doing the same thing of which we accuse others? Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia because that country deliberately, persistently murdered and butchered her citizens, and this was done repeatedly with impunity. Now, what are we doing? We send a large army to Mexico to punish those who have shot and killed our citizens. O sancta simplicita! what irony!

And again, should America's very existence be at stake, would it not be folly to adopt the same submarine warfare methods that Germany inaugurated? But this is again a horse of a different color.

Mr. Editor, otherwise I like your paper. I love my country—the best in the world. I fought for this country during the Spanish-American War, and I stand for my country, first, last and all the time, but I would not like to see fair play eradicated from the great American people. Let us be fair! neutral! square! F. J. EPPLING,
Field Missionary for the Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin.

If Mr. Eppling fancies The Oregonian would approve adoption by America of German submarine tactics, even in defense of existence, he is mistaken.

Law on Naturalization.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—A man 66 years old has lived in this country since 1862, coming here when a boy of 15. He has made this country his home, not knowing the law, but considered himself a citizen, voted after he became of age, held office both in his adopted state and in the United States; took the oath of office in both cases, and supposed he was all right as a citizen.

What is your opinion as to his standing according to law? Can he be held as a criminal for false swearing? Is he a citizen, never having taken out any papers? His parents never were in this country. I tell him that this is a pretty hard nut, and that he had better turn it over to T. R.'s bird to crack.

J. D. T.

By the act of June 25, 1910, any person who on May 1, 1905, was an inhabitant for five years and qualified to become a citizen of the United States, and who for the five years preceding May 1, 1910, had resided in the United States continuously, and who because of misinformation in regard to his citizenship, had in good faith exercised the right and duties of a citizen of the United States because of wrongful information and belief, may, upon proof of these facts satisfactory to a court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens, petition for naturalization without filing the required declaration of intention upon compliance with the other requirements of law. He is in no danger of criminal prosecution.

Where Flies Breed.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—Now as we are starting a war on flies the City Commissioners, Dr. Marcellus and the Consumers' League should start at the root of this pest, drive all the cow barns out of the city. That would stop the incubation of the pest. MRS. R. WILLIAMS.

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of April 11, 1866.

During the session of the Democratic State Convention in this city, their hall was decorated with flags. Now that the country is out of danger, Democrats can afford to display the bunting.

One of the candidates for Representative on the Copperhead ticket in Polk County has laid out a town in that county and named it Dixie.

April showers have cooled the atmosphere somewhat the past 24 hours and yet the weather is "nifty."

Walla Walla—Great numbers are leaving for Blackfoot from here and South Boise. Drifters at the latter place and men for almost any class of work, in which they are experienced, can get $7 a day wages. Some of the mills have closed down rather than pay the rates during the short days when work cannot be carried on the full hours.

San Francisco must be a thirsty city. It has 3512 bars at which liquors are sold. Two thousand, nine hundred and four drunks are reported for the past year.

The proposed concert by the 14th Infantry Band will be given this evening at the Willamette Theater. The band will arrive at 10 o'clock today by the steamer Fannie Troup from Vancouver.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of April 11, 1891.

CHICAGO, April 10.—Ex-Mayor Carter H. Harrison this afternoon announced his permanent retirement from political life. He intends either to leave Chicago for good or to go on a farm.

The United Presbytery of Oregon met in the United Presbyterian Church of this city. Twelve ministers and a number of elders are in attendance upon the meeting, which will continue its sessions until this evening.

H. C. Campbell has just returned from a visit East, made with the purpose of seeing what improvements have lately been made in the way of electric motors and other machinery for electric roads.

London, April 10.—A Vienna dispatch says that the Austrian government, not being reassured by Russia's denial of unfriendly designs, has already concentrated large bodies of troops to watch the Galician frontier.

Berlin, April 10.—In consequence of the Russian massing of troops on the Silesian frontiers, the German government has decided to strengthen the frontier garrisons.

The fifth anniversary of K Company's organization was celebrated with a banquet at Baum & Brandes' last evening.

Rider Haggard, who has just returned from Mexico, says the climate is very trying, with thin air and insufferable heat. The air swarms with insects that make life a misery and one cannot sleep at night because of them.

WILL IS BETTER THAN MEDICINE

Good, Strong Thought Will Make One What He Wishes to Be.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—Not many weeks ago a writer in The Oregonian said that "the worry thought was the cause of cancer of the stomach," causing knots to form in certain tissues, and gave a very clear demonstration of cause and effect.

It is not so well understood as it should be that the body and its functions are governed by "thought force."

By studying and developing the divine within us we qualify ourselves to help others as well as ourselves.

"He that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." "Know thyself" and study the "power within."

Thoughts can be cultivated and governed; man can be what he wills to be, whether a useful citizen or a nuisance and a menace to society.

Circumstances do not "make the man"; it is not "fate" that brings him to jail when he is caught committing a crime; he has simply allowed himself to be dominated by impure thoughts and selfish desires.

The "divinity that shapes our ends" lies within ourselves.

Disease and health are both rooted in the mind.

The "fear thought" has destroyed many. Those who live in the fear and dread of disease are the ones who get it; they think "disease," they talk "disease" and believe in "disease" to the great discomfort of their friends.

Strong, cheerful thoughts build up the body and continually renew it, and the happy possessor radiates good cheer to others. No medicine can equal these good, cheerful thoughts.

Think well of all; find the good in everything. The first thought in the morning must be one of thankfulness that "all is good." Let us take a lesson from the dear little robin; he wakes us and is the first bird to give thanks in the very early hours of morning.

MRS. MATTIE B. ROSS.

Eggs in Water Glass.

CORVALLIS, Or., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell in The Oregonian if there is any ingredient in the composition of "water glass" for preserving eggs which might be injurious to health, eggs being absorbent. Some people seem afraid to use many eggs preserved with it. HOUSEKEEPER.

"Water glass" for preserving eggs is a solution of silicate of soda or potassium (potash), and when the eggs are dipped in these solutions the pores are filled up by the same, which prevents the air from passing through the shell to the substance of the egg. There is nothing in the composition as used that would be detrimental to health.

Proof of Milk Record.

SKAMANIA, Wash., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—If Mr. Evenden, who questions the milk record of the Holstein cow, Alcartra, will write to the University of California for circular No. 135, I think he will cease his doubting as to Tilly Alcartra's record. He may not understand that several months elapsed between the two yearly records.

The circular gives the first year's record, also the rules under which the record was made. J. M. WRIGHT.

Relieved of Care.

Washington Star.

"I don't have to turn over any new leaf," remarked Senator Sorghum.

"Why not?"

"The folks out home turned one over for me at the polls last election."

The "Pull Together" Spirit

Local dealers are awakening to the advantage of co-operating with manufacturers who assist them in making a market by advertising in the newspapers of their towns.

This very pull-together spirit goes a long way towards making sales.

The response to this newspaper advertising is direct and highly profitable. No money is wasted in making a market where there is no distribution.