The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 1916.

LLOYD GEORGE'S DECLARATION.

The transition from war to peace is necessarily so great that it can only be brought about by slow degrees. Though the German proposal for a conference may not lead to anything definite, it serves a good purpose in causing the two parties to review and define their aims, to limit their demands to such as can be justified in the eyes of the world and to reassure themselves that, if any of these demands should be denied, they would justify continued war. Each party knowing that the other will continue fighting until certain points are conceded or are proved by the fortunes of war to be unattainable, the war may continue after a preliminary "showdown" until its course eliminates the points of disagreement one by one.

The greatest obstacle to even a beginning of peace negotiations is the diametrically opposite view taken by the two parties. Each insists that it is fighting purely in self-defense, that the other was the aggressor and that it must be protected against further aggression. Before they can reach a common basis for an understanding, one party must recede from this position or must be driven from it. Neither is likely to yield the point, for to do so would be to abandon its entire case. Neither is defeated, hence neither is in a position to extort this confession as the victor.

Mr. Lloyd George declares peace without reparation impossible, but reparation would be a confession that all the deeds for which it is demanded were crimes, though Germany justifies them. Only defeat could exact this confession, but Germany points to the military map and claims victory. The British Premier says the allies will insist that the only end of the war must be "a complete guaranty against Prussian militarism disturbing the peace of Europe," but in the next breath he questions whether any "terms and guaranties are surer than those which Germany broke." But Germany denies having violated any guaranties, and demands new ones from its enemies on its part.

Since neither party is beaten and since both still hope for victory, these further guaranties can be obtained only by force and can consist only in exercise of physical power to prevent further acts of perfidy such as each alleges against the other. Germany, in occupation of enemy territory on all sides in Europe and having just conquered the newest enemy, cannot be expected yet to abandon hope of gaining these pledges of good conduct; the allies, having driven back the enemy on all sides except in Roumania, are still confident of obtaining them.

Yet the allies cannot, without injury to their own cause in the eyes of the world, decline the central empires' invitation pointblank. "Decent respect for the opinion of mankind" requires them to evince willingness to confer, provided they do not thereby sacrifice any of the principles for which they are fighting. Even if nothing should result but a clearer definition of the objects sought by each, something will have been gained. Other wars of great magnitude have been marked by several peace overtures before negotiations actually began, and each move of the kind helped to clear the way for a conference.

The British Premier's programme for prosecution of the war is marked by those characteristics of energy, courage and prompt decision which have caused his country to stake all its hopes on him. He will try by prompt decision to avert further disaster. The government will take complete control of labor, shipping, food and industry and will create a socialized state differing little from Germany. Settlement of the Irish question is to be sought and the dominions are to be taken into an imperial conference. No problem is too difficult for the new Premier to attack, and he promises no delay in dealing with those which Mr. Asquith had long put off. The new fervor of self-sacrifice which he breathes into the British nation matches that with which Von Hindenburg has inspired the Germans. Each nation promises to be more closely knit into a fighting unit than ever, each alliance to be organized into a more smoothly working team than ever. These preparations presage more desperate fighting in the coming year than has marked the past of this most bloody of all wars.

A NEW COIN AND ITS USES.

Much debate has been provoked by the director of the mint's suggestion that he be authorized to coin a 2½-cent piece. We have no coin for any sum between a penny and a nickel since the 2-cent and the 3-cent pieces were abolished. As a people, Americans are contemptuous of small sums, and many of us will not deign to subdivide a dollar into more than twenty parts.

But the half-nickel, or by whatever other name it might become known, would have its uses. Many a man will buy two things for 25 cents rather than pay 15 cents for one, though one may be all he needs. In the bad, old, wet days in Portland, many a man has invited a friend to drink with him in the expectation that the latter would reciprocate and that thus he would save a nickel. Great would be his chagrin if the friend proved to be a 'tightwad" and failed him. The new coin would enable such a man to pay a dime and a half-nickel for each drink and take no risks that a friend would play false. It would be a boon to the 2-cent newspaper, which might slip up its price to 2½ cents and thus compensate for the high cost of white paper, but it would be a bane to the 3-cent paper, which might be forced down half a cent in order to enable the newsboy to make quick change.

The what-shall-we-call-it coin would carry farther one of our two ways of dividing a dollar. One way is by tenths and twentieths with dimes and nickels. The other leads by halves and quarters to eighths, which would be represented by a dime and a what-is-it, and might be carried still farther to a sixteenth, which would be 6¼ cents—the amount of damages usually awarded in a libel suit when the jury believes the plaintiff has been libeled but only nominally injured.

OUR BOYS AT THE BORDER.

Governor Withycombe is sharply criticised by an always unfriendly newspaper because he has asked the War Department to send home the Oregon troops yet on the border. If we are not mistaken, Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate military affairs committee, has interceded in vain for the Guardsmen and their anxious parents and friends; and Representative McArthur has also presented the plea for home-coming to the Secretary of War.

We have seen no word of censure for Senator Chamberlain for his attitude, nor indeed for Mr. McArthur. Only for the Governor. Yet he has less responsibility than the Senator—none at all, indeed—for the military policy of the Washington authorities.

"The Government has no regular troops," says the journalistic advocate of indefinite police duty 2000 miles from the Guard's home state, "to replace the Guardsmen, and Governor Withycombe knows it, or should know it."

Senator Chamberlain also knows it, and the country knows it. The Senator has sought to repair vital defects in the Army organization by increasing the establishment and to guarantee the safety of the country through universal military training.

Senator Chamberlain would have an Army competent to meet any crisis, particularly to cope with a situation like the Mexican border troubles. He has had no encouragement from his party in Oregon. It would keep the Guard at the border till the crack of doom rather than provide a trained and adequate Army.

GREAT CONVENTION COMING.

When the National Education Association descended upon New York last year, with something like 36,000 delegates and participants, the great city was fairly amazed. It is doubtful if the average metropolitan inhabitant, whose vision westward is limited to the desolate marshes of New Jersey, had ever heard of the organization. But the National Education Association speedily educated New York. Thirty-six thousand individual Americans of any calling or social or intellectual classification are not to be ignored even by the provincial New Yorkers; when they are men and women of high intelligence and great influence, and when many of them have indeed attained National distinction, it is easy to understand that even New York was thoroughly aroused to the significance and importance of their coming.

This great organization proposes now to honor Portland by holding its annual convention here in July, 1917. It will be a memorable event, for it will bring to this city the largest and most representative body of visitors ever gathered in the Pacific Northwest. The education convention met in Oakland, Cal., in 1915, at the time of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The attendance reached the astonishing figure of 15,000, most of whom had journeyed the long distance across the continent. The total for Portland ought to reach the Oakland figure, or very nearly that.

Obviously, Portland must prepare for a great assembly of typical American teachers, active in college, public school and other branches of scholastic and educational life. There must be a generous reception and adequate arrangement for their accommodation. All the resources of the city's and state's hospitality must be placed at their command. They have high expectations, undoubtedly, of the attractiveness of the city and of the entire Northwest, and they must not be disappointed.

SINFUL GLOATING.

As might have been expected, there will be no living with Democrats now that they have been given a second term in power. It is only a short while since they claimed the political allegiance of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and now Brother Wagnon adds the Nazarene to the list. It need not be doubted that as Brother Wagnon pursues his studies of the Bible he will find further evidence of a close alliance between the teachings of the scriptures and those of the Democratic party.

But in his enthusiastic researches let him not overlook the precept of humility which we think he will find expounded in the good book. It is not an indication of humility or of brotherly love to gloat. And we are quite positive that there is a gloat or two in Brother Wagnon's interesting and instructive letter, which is published in another column.

To gloat is sinful. It is most un-Christian. Even in the one incident over which there was chance to gloat following the bribery of Mr. Iscariot, which Brother Wagnon so feelingly describes, the privilege of gloating was denied. Peter might have plumed himself over cutting off the ear of the servant of the high priest. But he was rebuked, the ear miraculously healed and Peter had to lie out of it later in order to save his skin.

In his journey down through the ages, Brother Wagnon makes the important discovery that everything that Bryan stood for in 1896 has been written into the statutes. Brother Wagnon should leave his scriptural studies long enough to find the exact section of the Revised Statutes wherein free coinage of silver is provided for at the ratio of sixteen to one. If he can do that he can also find free trade in the Underwood tariff and detect a tariff-for-revenue only in the tariff commission law adopted by a Democratic Congress. Those would be feats worth while.

If Brother Wagnon insists on sinful gloating he should gloat over victory in the abstract and leave gloating over practical affairs to the reassured Federal brigade and those who make a study of modern as well as ancient history. As for his prophecy of single tax for Britain, whatever comes to pass will not be our gloat—nor our funeral.

In connection with efforts to find employment for the wounded soldiers of Europe, attention has recently been called by serious students of the situation to the danger of overdoing the making of toys and other inconsequential articles of no established economic value. A newspaper in France, started by the disabled soldiers themselves, has recently given frank warning against putting too much dependence upon things that now fetch high prices under the impulse of highly stimulated sentiment, but which it is feared will not continue to do so when the world has settled back into its dull routine. It is shown that toy making is interesting and suitable work for disabled men, but that there is not enough of it to employ more than a small proportion of the whole number, and in addition there is no way of foretelling a season in advance what the styles in toys will be. A group of men who had learned to make one kind of toy would have no assurance of long-continued employment. It is strongly urged that these men, therefore, be trained for industries that are more likely to endure.

A CHANCE FOR GLORY.

Somebody, with suspicion pointing toward the City Hall, is encouraging a propaganda in behalf of a municipal lighting plant. Those who have faint recollections of a municipal woodyard enterprise will probably watch developments with trepidation.

We offer as a counter irritant municipal control of bootblack stands. Such an enterprise would be comparatively small in initial cost and would shed further light on the ability of the city to manage anything.

In choosing between the two proposals reflect for a minute that there are three lighting systems in Portland actively competing for business, which promotes low prices. There is no competition in shoe-shining as to price. In some other cities a man can get his shoes shined for a nickel. Here it costs 10 cents.

To be sure, not everybody's shoes are shined. Nor does everybody use gas or electricity. But everybody ought to use shoe blacking, which cannot be said of everybody as to gas or electricity.

If the price of shoe-shining were cut in half more men would present a neat appearance, for those who do not shine at all would spruce up and those who do an indifferent job at home would patronize experts. Visitors would remark upon the neat appearance of everyone, more men would be employed and Portland would be happy and prosperous.

Such an enterprise would call for a limited number of new officials Probably these:

One Superintendent of the Bureau of Bootblacking.
One Private Secretary.
One General Supervisor.
Three District Supervisors.
One East Side foreman.
Two West Side foremen.
Three assistant foremen.
One Inspector of Blacking Brushes.
One Inspector of Blacking.
One Inspector of Whisk Brooms.

We shall be happy to furnish further particulars to any seedy politicians who may be looking for jobs or to any patriot now in office who would like to father some scheme to make him solid with the people.

DEATH OF A GREAT ATHLETE.

To devotees of "all-around athletics" the news of the death in London of Donald Dinnie will come as a surprise, for although Dinnie was 70 or thereabouts he was a man of the type whom one somehow does not associate with dying. He will be remembered by the people of Portland thirty years ago as a wonderful wrestler and a Scot of prodigious strength. It is recalled that in a wrestling match at the old Mechanics' Pavilion here he vanquished a giant from Montana. In the style of wrestling in which the contestants are dressed in harness, and in which great strength counts the most, his victory was so easy as to be almost ludicrous.

There were several remarkable things about Donald Dinnie. One was that he did not become a champion until he had reached the age at which it is said of most men that they have passed their prime. He did not enter athletics as a business until he was 30. He was 48 when he became all-around champion of the world. His versatility was amazing. He won a great many running races, jumping contests, hammer throws and wrestling bouts. Of the latter, he was champion of six styles. It is said of him that he had won more than 11,000 contests in his lifetime, which is a good many more than most athletes have a chance even to enter. On his trip to the United States he carried away more than 150 championship cups and medals. He went from here to Australia and proved himself superior to all the athletes of the antipodes. Then he returned to England and continued his work. He was more than 50 when, like Alexander, he found himself with no more worlds to conquer.

Dinnie solved a profound secret, the secret of holding his supremacy until relatively late in life, by refusing to confine himself to a single department of the game. To the last he kept himself a "well-balanced man." Where some would have over-exercised a single set of muscles and have become slow and stale in time, Dinnie gave attention at all times both to power and speed. Enough of each to preserve the muscular equilibrium and not too much of any one seemed to have been his life motto. And when one compares the record of Donald Dinnie with that of nearly any other professional—wrestler, ballplayer or whatnot—it will be seen that the Dinnie system was the system that brought home the bacon. Eleven thousand contests won! What an achievement for one man! It is no wonder that Dinnie was called the greatest athlete ever produced by Scotland, that land of massive men, and that there is no one seriously to dispute that he was the greatest all-around athlete in the world.

FARMING IN THE CITIES.

Massachusetts cities have just accepted the terms of a law permitting maintenance of urban schools of agriculture. It appears that the movement away from the country and toward the city has been particularly alarming in the factory towns of the East. The danger is imminent that in another generation or perhaps two the supply of competent farmers will be exhausted. This is doubly unfortunate because it is threatened at a time when the Eastern states need their farmers more than ever. Eastern soil, with long use, have become a problem for the best types of agriculturists. It is no longer a question of sowing a crop haphazard and depending on Nature to do the rest.

The Massachusetts idea is to reach people who could not be reached by the agricultural colleges—the children of the factory hands and of the folks who have moved from the farm to town and show little or no inclination to return to the country. There are large numbers of immigrants to be educated along the same lines—men and women from the congested centers of Europe and from the bleak regions of Northeastern Canada. These were attracted to the city by promise of better pay for less work, but many of them have been disappointed. At any rate, they are finding out that there are penalties in the way of surrender of independence and unpleasant working conditions. It is hoped to show these people that the country offers them greater reward than manual labor in the cities—and since it would be useless to try to induce them to go to the country at first, it is proposed to take farming instruction to them in the city schools.

In these matters, as in many others, the West has shown the way. We already have our school gardens, and they have proved successful, but their mission is not quite the same. We do not have the same problem of slums and factory tenements. In the East the idea is only incidentally to stimulate the cultivation of the vacant land of cities for what it may produce. Of course, whatever is grown that way will be that much toward reducing the cost of living by increasing the food supply, but it will be negligible on the whole. The primary thought is to create love of tilling the soil, to teach that it is pleasant work and not any harder, for example, than digging a trench for a water main, and so to foster by indirection the movement back to the land. In other words, the city would so instruct its people that they can leave it and make a living. It is not a good scheme from the point of view of the population boomer, but it is an excellent type of altruism.

There are few men or women who do not have some plan for checking the unnatural growth of the urban population. Much experimentation will precede adoption of the final plan or plans. This new movement will be watched with especial interest, and if it succeeds it will be worth all it costs. Meanwhile, of course, the state and the cities will be called upon to pay the bills.

An interesting experiment is being made in Cleveland in an effort to ascertain whether an appreciable number of men who are established in life can be found who will undertake the responsibility of acting as a sort of religious big brother to other men not so well established and younger in years. Past experience has indicated difficulty in this direction. Many men are willing to give freely of their money for charitable enterprises, or to finance employment bureaus, or even to provide food for the destitute who show diffidence about assuming to give guidance in religious matters, feeling, sometimes, that this is a work that should be left for preachers to do. The effort now being made under the direction of the Young Men's Christian Association has for its object the establishment of cordial relations between men who need counsel and those who are able to give it out of their own experience as to matters of spiritual need. At a recent meeting 2358 young men were found who desired to avail themselves of the counsels of a "big brother," but only 114 big brothers volunteered, which was far from establishing a working proportion; but the experiment has not yet been abandoned.

The Guardsmen will welcome Federal payments in aid of their dependent families, but they will not take kindly to Secretary Baker's assumption that they are to continue in the Federal service until June 30, 1917. In that case they would become veterans without having fired a shot at an enemy.

Of course it would be very rude to hurt Carranza's feelings by chasing bandits into Mexico, but how about the feelings of the Americans whom they maltreat on this side of the border? Carranza is so swelled up with his own dignity that he cannot see anything else.

The National Health Service has been gathering statistics and advises not to worry about accumulating too much if one would live long. Many inmates of almshouses attest the truth of this advice.

The sale of wild horses to be caught by the purchaser opens a further field for speculative activity. The practice might be extended to all kinds of wild game and could be continued as long as any remained uncaught.

The loyalty of Canada will be something to be talked of for 100 years. Not the least of her acts is the ripping up of 1000 miles of railway track to send to Europe for war purposes.

It is quite a compliment to the Oregon artillery and cavalry that Uncle Sam cannot get along without them, but the boys do not appreciate the compliment at this particular season.

John Barrett, erstwhile our John, is on the job, and if trade of the republics gets away after the war it will not be because John failed to advise us of the danger.

About the only way to deal with Baldwin and Curtis seems to be to build a special penitentiary for them. Then they could not incite the other convicts to disorder.

We of the Valley who shiver at 32 degrees find it hard to realize the intense cold of Wyoming, where it is a struggle to keep a locomotive from "going dead."

The millennium must be just around the corner of the calendar. The Union Pacific refuses to carry freight that can be carried by a competitor.

It will be observed that troops from the states that voted for Wilson are being sent home from the border.

The Marquis of Crewe expresses the British idea when he says "to the last man, to the last shilling."

Father might go through life without a handkerchief if it were not for Christmas.

Archbold left his fortune of $20,000,000 to his family, which obviates a contest.

The sole good in a probe of the high cost of living is that it keeps somebody busy.

The Mint can't make money for lack of money. Lots of us are in the same fix.

Lloyd George's reply means not this Christmas, thank you.

Now it's "mange cure" in Seattle, and a bark ought to procure it.

Will it be a green or a white Christmas?

How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letter will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where stamped addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered.

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HOUSING IN LIVERPOOL.

(Copyright, 1916, by Dr. W. A. Evans.)

FIFTY years ago Liverpool became convinced that something must be done about housing. The city had grown very rapidly during a period when men knew little, and cared less, about the sanitation of a city, and, in consequence, houses had been thrown together without regard to health and occupants were allowed to do about as they pleased. Shipping from all the world centered in Liverpool. It was noticed that certain slums were foci from which epidemics of typhus, cholera and smallpox spread out over the city periodically, while constantly consumption, typhoid, diphtheria and scarlet fever, bred there, were being carried into other parts of the city.

They started in to get rid of the poor houses. They began by tearing down insanitary houses and boarding up cellars out of which people had been compelled to move. In all 20,000 insanitary houses have been pulled down by the city. In the last eight years 1500 houses have been closed. In 1916 100 have been closed and are waiting to be torn down. Only about 2000 insanitary houses are left in the city. Of the 11,000 cellars occupied as dwellings all have been emptied except 300.

But Liverpool found out early that driving people out of poor houses was not enough. The old houses must be torn down, new ones built, and, as far as possible, the occupants of the old houses must be moved into the new ones. They adopted the municipal policy of buying the insanitary house and the ground on which it stood, tearing down the house and building a cheap, sanitary house in its stead. They now have 3000 corporation houses. These two, three and four-room dwellings rent for from 43 cents to $1.75 a week. Three years ago there were 10,223 people living in these rooms.

The death rate among the people in these slum districts before the houses were built ranged from 40 to 60. The tuberculosis rate was four. In 1913 the death rate was 27.7, the birth rate was 37.7. The consumption rate was two and the baby death rate was 145.7 per 1000 births. The typhoid rates have decreased even more than have the general death rate and the consumption death rate. Typhus and cholera have wholly disappeared, and smallpox practically so. Other contagious diseases have greatly diminished.

Dr. Hope, the health officer, reports in the Journal of State Medicine: "The habits of the people are vastly improved; less drunkenness, less squalor, and that feature which forced itself upon the attention of every thinking person—namely, the shocking amount of child neglect—has largely diminished. The slum areas, or, at all events, the great bulk of them, have been swept away and in their places we have decent, healthy tenements situated in wide streets, with plenty of air space and playgrounds for the children. The amount of money spent for ground and improvements is $6,000,000. The rent collected in 1915 was something less than $150,000. A good part of the return on the $6,000,000 is in less sickness and fewer deaths, not only in the district but in the city at large.

Diet for Baby.

H. M. T. writes: "Under normal conditions what is the best age to wean a baby?

"2. The child is 1 year old and eats soft-boiled eggs, cream of wheat and cream, oranges and zwieback. Is this sufficient without breast food?"

REPLY.

1. Nine to twelve months.

2. No. He should have about a quart a day of cow's milk, some finely chopped vegetables, some finely chopped meat, mashed potatoes with butter or gravy. Let him gnaw bones. Let him have the milk at once. The other foods should be gradually added to his diet.

Massage Tonsils.

W. S. T. writes: "At intervals of a few months I expectorate small, hard yellow particles extremely offensive, coming apparently from the head or throat. Please tell me the cause and remedy."

REPLY.

These are concretions from the tonsils. They can be squeezed out by massaging the tonsils, using for the purpose the handle of a large spoon.

Tapeworm Remedy.

O. M. J. writes: "Can you suggest some method of getting rid of a stubborn and troublesome intestinal worm in a normal woman 38 years old? I have taken santonni and castor oil, following the casual directions of two different druggists. I have tried three times and failed. Could a worm be the cause of an occasional nervous, gnawing pain in the stomach that I have sometimes thought neuralgia?"

REPLY.

If the only indication of the presence of a worm is a nervous gnawing pain in the stomach you can be reasonably certain no worm is present. As you speak of one worm being present, the probability is that you have passed pieces of tapeworm. To get rid of a tapeworm you must prepare thoroughly. Stay in bed, taking a liquid died only for three days (a pint and a half of milk a day.) Take a mild saline purge on each of these three days. On the evening of the third day take a saline purge. Repeat before breakfast the next morning. At 8 o'clock take a dose of worm medicine. Repeat at 9. At 11 take a dose of castor oil. Male fern is the best medicine for tapeworm. Pomegranate or pumpkin seeds also are good.

Southern Florida Climate.

Mrs. C. E. L. writes that the climate of Miami, Fla., is good for asthma. She had a daughter with asthma in bad form. It cured her and she is now a big, fat woman.

ON THE ROAD TO SCHOOL.

BY JUNE M'MILLEN ORDWAY.

Dear little boy, I see you pass
So oft' with bat and ball,
I'm but a fir tree growing,
And I wish that I could call
And tell you to be patient,
For I'm growing, growing tall.

Dear little boy I hear you say
You'll have no Christmas tree,
For all are small, so very small,
There is no great big tree.

Now little boy be happy,
And don't you grieve at all,
For I am growing every day,
So very, very tall.'

On Christmas morn you'll waken
And find so many toys,
All hanging on my branches—
I'm just the tree for boys.

SCRIPTURES ARE STILL HIS STUDY

Brother Wagnon Discovers First Party Democrat in New Testament.

PORTLAND, Dec., 19. — (To the Editor.) — I am never happy when my old friend, The Oregonian, is perplexed. It is plain you cannot account for the recent Democratic victory, so that prompts me to tell you that Democracy is always victorious. It has been winning ever since the dawn of history.

Democracy has ever had to fight Goliaths of evil, whose spears are like weaver's beams, and they use them to fight back the lovers of justice.

About 1917 years ago was born a Great Democrat in the city of David, who later led a movement for more democracy in and about the city of Jerusalem. He told the plain people how to live better lives and he preached against wrong in high places, and went so far as to drive the money changers out of the temple, which brought down the wrath of the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce on his head. In this great historic struggle we see the standpatters led by a man named Caiaphas, who had the backing of the Good Government Club, which numbered among its members all the preachers, scribes, lawyers, doctors and money changers, to say nothing of the hog keepers of Gadarenes.

The Great Carpenter had on his side the fishermen's union, some publicans, and many sinners, both men and women. As this campaign warmed up the S. Pats got scared, as usual, and resorted to use of money by bribing a man named Iscariot with several pieces of silver, and at the close of the campaign by trickery they got another helper, Barabbas by name. With their help the carpenter was nailed to the cross; but before they had got through congratulating themselves on their great victory they found out that the fishermen had filled all Jewery with the doctrine of the carpenter. They therefore had a law passed forbidding any one to teach in this man's name, but it was like our late jitney franchise—of no effect.

This same fight is still going on. Sometimes the standpatters call it a fight between the "haves" and the "have-nots," but call it what you will Democracy is surely winning little by little.

Democracy made some gain in King John's time, and again in 1776 in King George's time, when ean Democrats held a meeting in Philadelphia.

The same old fight was waged around slavery, and the standpatters of the South thought they had a great victory when they hanged that old bandit for taking Harpers' Ferry. But "his soul went marching on," and met the standpatters at Appomattox.

Democracy again won a grand triumph in 1896 when that young Titan from the Platte scourged the modern money-changers in and out of the temple. Three times the standpatters downed him, and their editors have buried him and showed us the picture of his grave, but his "sure insurgent stride has jarred plutocracy's ultimate stone of pride." Everything he stood for in 1896 has been written in the law, and more; it is Democracy winning from the standpatters.

Now that you have named me Elijah may I venture to prophesy? If ever the war debt of Europe is paid or the interest on it, it will be by the adoption of the single tax, and my reason for this prediction is the fact that England has placed that splendid single taxer, David Lloyd George, at the head of the government. All of which goes to show that the Great Carpenter's words were true when he said, "Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Hate drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.

—Markham.

H. D. WAGNON.

FOOD EMBARGO WOULD BE COSTLY

Government Could Better Spend Money for Relief of Own "War Sufferers."

CHERRYVIVLLE, Or., Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—In solving the problem of putting an embargo on food we would suggest that Congress take advantage of the absence of any political emergency requiring legislative action to appease some faction clamoring for Governmental assistance and for once apply strictly business principles to it. They might call for the assistance of some expert mathematicians to calculate the various items necessary to arrive at a satisfactory solution. We imagine the account would look like this:

EXPENSE OF ENFORCING EMBARGO.

Coaling, victualing and operating ——— hundred gunboats to stop and search every vessel leaving our ports	$.....
Food and other expenses of ——— thousand soldiers and special police along Canadian and Mexican borders	$.....
Cost of trial of ——— thousand American citizens accused of smuggling goods	$.....
Cost of caring for ——— thousand convicted of last item for 15 to 20 years	$.....
Losses to industrial workers due to unusual business disturbances	$.....
Additional calls for help in feeding Belgians and others because of the stopping of all supplies from this country	$.....
Miscellaneous expenses and losses	$.....
Total	$.....

If an embargo is not declared the United States Treasury is saved the foregoing expense, which can be transferred to the emergency fund and applied through the proper organizations for direct relief of the sufferers from the added cost of living due to war prices.

This is, to be sure, a very prosaic way for meeting an emergency in this country, where the impression prevails that all expense and responsibility can be escaped by the simple process of slapping another law on the statute books.

This relief should be applied to only the actual needy. The rest of us who are not benefited directly by the high prices will have to comfort ourselves with the thought that it is the other fellow's turn at a good thing and make ourselves believe that those who are getting money fast will also presently spend it at about the same speed and that eventually we will all get a whack at it. GEORGE B. COUPER.

HORSE HAIR TEST IS STARTLING

Number Tied in Knot Produces Knot of Worms in Warm Water.

MOSSYROCK, Wash., Dec. 17.—(To the Editor.)—I have read The Oregonian every day for many years. Of late I have noticed letters on the great hair-worm controversy. I am 72 years old and wish to add my experience and views. Horse hairs from the mane or tail will turn to snakes and live and wriggle and crawl for a short time. I have many times placed hairs in pools of warm water alongside of roads in Summer time in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. In a short time they were alive and crawling about in the pool with heads and mouth and eyes and spotted backs. They were from eight inches to one foot long, about the thickness of a pin or needle.

To make sure of these facts I took a bunch of long hairs the size of a lead pencil, tied a knot in it, cast it in the water in the month of June. In two of three days it was a bunch of live, crawling snakes struggling to get separated.

I then made a careful examination with a powerful glass. I learned the hair was covered with many hundreds of microbes which produced life. I have, in a crude way, made a study of nature's wonderful works and am fully convinced that the real and true god is the god of nature. The air and water and earth are all life without beginning or end. DANIEL SHANER.

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 20, 1891.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The recommendation of Governor Pennoyer of Joseph Simon for Circuit Judge will not do the latter gentleman very much good. The President has a good memory and when he saw Pennoyer's name he recalled the asinine performance of the Oregon Governor as he was about to enter the borders of the state.

Cyrus W. Field was very little improved yesterday. While he is not in immediate danger of death, he is said to be low and takes little nourishment.

Messrs. Selover and Bunker have sold out their interests in the Linnton smelter to a syndicate composed of the principal stockholders of the old company and the long-drawn-out feud is at an end.

The "Four Hundred" turned out in force last night to witness and applaud "G" Company minstrels at the Marquam Grand. This crack company, so well and favorably known, could not fail to draw a crowded house.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 20, 1866.

Certain people may be startled to know that some of our prominent citizens have organized a company to build a railroad on the Oregon side of the Columbia River portage at the Cascades. Such is the fact, however.

A rumor has been whizzing about the streets for several days that a sensation of some sort is impending. We think we may surmise that it will come out in a day or two in the shape of an opposition line of steamboats between Portland and The Dalles.

We learn from the operator here that the line beyond Yreka is down somewhere, that the rains south of Yreka have been very heavy, the streams swollen, the bridges washed away and the stage has not arrived from the south for three days. This state of things may continue for some time.

The Rescue arrived from Monticello yesterday with the mails, several passengers from the Sound and a cargo mostly of hay. We noticed among her cargo also a case of tobacco leaves, which looked bright and of fine quality, grown on the Columbia bottom.

FIRST CHURCH WEST OF ROCKIES

Earliest Protestant Flock Not Organized at Oregon City, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—The writer is interested in all that which pertains to Oregon. Its early history reads like a romance and all Oregonians are proud of their state, whether native born or adopted sons.

The excellent articles by Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, appearing the The Sunday Oregonian, "Stories of Old Oregon," are word pictures of ancestral Oregon.

Referring to Mrs. Dye's article in The Sunday Oregonian, December 17, (Section 5, page 7), wherein she says: "That same year (1844) the Methodists dedicated the first Protestant church west of the Rocky Mountains at Oregon City." Mrs. Dye evidently overlooked a Protestant church which was organized on August 18, 1838, six years earlier, at the house of Dr. Marcus Whitman, at the Walilatpu Mission station, six miles west of the present city of Walla Walla, Wash. This was the first Protestant (and first Presbyterian) church organized in North America west of the Rocky Mountains and on the Pacific Coast.

Rev. H. H. Spalding was elected pastor and Dr. Marcus Whitman ruling elder of this old, historic church. The writer is indeed fortunate in possessing a certified copy of the "records" of this now famous church.

The organizers of this first Protestant (and first Presbyterian) church were missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

See "History of the Synod of Washington," page 228; also an article prepared by the writer entitled "First Things Pertaining to Presbyterianism on the Pacific Coast," in Oregon Historical Society Quarterly for June, 1914.

The Presbyterian general assembly has officially enrolled this church as one of the churches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

"To err is human." The writer believes, however that in the interest of historical accuracy the foregoing correction should be made.

ROBERT H. BLOSSOM.

WORK SHOULD BE JOY TO JUDGES

Administration of Mothers' Pensions Noble Employment, Says Writer.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—It is to be regretted that the county judges of Oregon in convention saw fit to request by resolution that the 1917 Legislature repeal the present widow's pension law. This law was passed by the 1913 Legislature, and while that session of the Oregon Legislature made some mistakes, it certainly did not err in judgment when it placed Oregon on record as being willing to provide for the comfort of its widows and orphans.

The intention of the present law is to provide funds for the support of children that have been so unfortunate as to lose their father. The question is, Is it not better to place around these children the environment of a home instead of separating them from their friends and herding them up under the charge of a private corporation where they no longer have the gentle touch of a mother's hand, and where that private corporation, through state aid, may have the opportunity of exploiting their misfortune? It seems to me that the taxpayers may better afford to assist in bringing up such unfortunate children in the home environment, thus developing useful citizens; then, possibly, it will not be necessary to expend such large sums in the prosecution of crime and in the maintenance of jails and penitentiaries.

I am sorry, indeed, that the learned county judges of Oregon, who are charged by the law with the administration of the funds set apart for these widows and orphans, should seek to relieve themselves of the responsibility which should be an enjoyment to them instead of a burden. Let us not overlook the moral supported by this law, and I trust that the 1917 Legislature will in its wisdom and good judgment refuse to repeal the law.

It is not out of personal pride in having supported and voted for the widows' pension law while a member of the 1913 Legislature that I address this letter, but purely and simply because the principle of the widow's pension law is correct and one that the commonwealth of Oregon can well afford to follow.

M. VERNON PARSONS.

"The Spirit of Christmas."

Long, long ago sweet gifts were piled
Beside the Smiling Bethlehem Child.
It was through love the wise men came.
It was with love they breathed His name.

Down through the years the "yule logs" burned,
Down through the years people have yearned
For gifts of love—as the wise men gave—
And thus the spirit of Christmas save.

Again has come the Christmas time,
All herald it with song and rhyme,
And love and love—we'll feel it when
We hear the cry, "Good will toward men."

—RUTH FRANCES HOPKINS.