The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 13, 1917.

FARM LOAN DANGERS.

The voters of Oregon last November went blithely to the polls and voted a state credit of $18,000,000 to establish a farm-loan system. The intent of the vote was no more than indorsement of a principle, but along with indorsing a principle the people accepted a number of hard and fast rules and inelastic details that have no place in a constitutional enactment. The Legislature must now work out further details and provide certain definitions, bearing in mind the while that they are held to certain limitations.

The rate at which money is to be lent to farmers is 5 per cent. It is so fixed by the constitutional amendment and is changeable only if the state bonds issued sell for less than par. Then farm loans may bear a rate 1 per cent higher than the rate paid by the state. The state bonds bear 4 per cent interest. So if a block of them is sold at 4¼ net the borrower from the state would have to pay 5¼. But if the state bonds sell at a premium the farmer borrower obtains no advantage therefrom. He must pay 5 per cent.

Under present conditions Oregon state bonds should sell at a high premium. The state is not now in debt. The interest rate is attractive. The Oregonian obtains from a responsible source the statement that if a block of these bonds were offered today in open competition they would bring from 120 to 122. At most the net rate paid by the state would be 3¾ per cent.

The Legislature is powerless to pass along to the farmers the full advantage of the state's superior credit. It is one of the inflexibilities in the amendment to which objection was made prior to election. The rate on farm loans ought to be flexible. Some farmers, because of the superiority of the security they offer, are entitled to a lower rate than others. Money has a practically definite base rate for lending purposes, except in times of panic or business upheaval. It is probably somewhere near 2½ per cent. The borrower who pays a higher rate is contributing in part to the cost of placing the money and in further part to insurance of the loan against loss.

Improved land has a fixed productive power and invites loans at a low rate. Land held for speculation carries a loan either at a higher rate or the principal is in lower proportion to its presumptive value—perhaps both. This definite rule of financial transactions is encountered by the farmer in seeking a loan from a private mortgage company. The mortgage company will capitalize the earning capacity of the land and lend up to a certain proportion of it. Smith may own 160 acres of land valued at $10,000 but only forty acres may be improved. The mortgage company reasons that if he has no other resources he cannot support his family, pay taxes and meet the interest on a loan of 50 per cent of the value of the whole tract from his earnings from forty acres. If Smith insists on borrowing that much he will have to seek some other agency than that which lends only at a low rate. He will seek out a money speculator, who, by charging a much higher rate of interest, insures the money he lends on unsafe security.

But, as stated, the state has adopted an inflexible rate. The amendment provides that it shall lend in amount up to 50 per cent of the value of the land. No distinction is made between improved and unimproved land. Under its terms the farmer who should pay a higher rate because of the speculative character of the greater part of his holdings will have his loan insured by the man whose farm is well improved and who, in view of the conditions under which the state will secure the funds, is actually entitled to a rate lower than 5 per cent.

This phase the Legislature cannot remedy, but it is logical that because of it more than ordinary care must be exercised in accepting land as security for state money. The Land Board believes that it can handle the new system satisfactorily under the system by which school funds are lent. An attorney is selected in each county, who examines lands and titles of persons seeking loans. No loss has been sustained by the school funds under the operation of this plan. But the state school fund has accumulated by degrees; the Land Board was alone in the field in lending money at 6 per cent on farms until quite recently; it virtually had the pick of farm-land security. Under the rural credit plan the Land Board is so unrestricted that it could have available within a few weeks millions of dollars to place on Oregon farms.

The integrity of the board is not questioned. It has acted conservatively in the past. On the other hand, in a state not many miles away, where school funds were more plentiful, they have been put out on mountain tops and rocky hillsides and the administration of the fund is an ever-recurring scandal. Whether thirty-six county agents can withstand the pressure that would come from knowledge that $18,000,000 of easy money is or can be made available is a matter of question. The average man, no matter what his business, will borrow more than he can pay if not restrained—not purposely, or fraudulently, but because it is his nature to be optimistic and to be careless in computing his future earnings and expenditures.

But if the county agent plan is not adopted the Legislature must provide for field agents, or for officials or inspectors on that order. Again the constitution ties the lawmakers' hands. The fee for appraisal and examination prescribed in the amendment is lower than the average cost of such work. To provide for competent field inspectors would require a large initial appropriation from the general fund. A man who is competent for such a job has no difficulty in attaching himself to a mortgage company at a salary of $5000 and upwards. After the rural credit system has run a few years, and if a large sum is placed, and if interest payments are promptly met by the borrowers, the 1 per cent charged by the state for lending money which it in turn has borrowed will yield quite a handsome sum, probably enough to maintain a large field force and a luxurious suite of offices. But the system must have a start and the general fund is poor.

Money lending is more or less of a science, but some of our college and farmer friends seem to assume that it is largely a matter of dishing it out. Eighteen million dollars is a great sum to be made available in a lump for distribution in the form of loans in a state of Oregon's population. There is real danger that unless proper safeguards are added to the amendment the state will witness an era of financial riot and farm-land speculation, to its ultimate disaster.

STILL TRYING TO SIDESTEP.

The Democratic majority in the House dared not call off the leak investigation in the face of opposition, but seemingly it is set upon preventing a real inquiry which will bring out the whole truth. That is the explanation of the decision to have the work renewed by the rules committee. It is a sidestep, for the chairman and the Democratic majority of that committee have evinced a determination to evade and have displayed some ability in that line.

The more the House leaders try to sidestep, the more firmly will the suspicion become fixed in the public mind that "there is something in" the leak charges. The leaders by their present course do not clear the guilty, if any there be; they unjustly spread the suspicion to the innocent. They do not remove the cloud from the reputation of Government officials; they render it blacker and more embracing.

COURAGE SCATTERS LYNCHERS.

Success of Governor Stanley, of Kentucky, in cooling the ardor of a mob for lynch law points a moral for other officials whose duty brings them in conflict with mob rule. A mob is by its very nature a coward, knowing that it is a lawbreaker, and it cringes before a man who opposes it with the backing of lawful authority. Whatever degree of courage it has is derived from disguise and from numbers. This fact was well illustrated in a recent story, in which a Sheriff scatters a mob by simply naming its members and telling their records.

Prevalence of lynch law in the South is due as much to the cowardice or secret sympathy of officials as to the lawlessness of the people. A courageous official attracts right-minded, law-abiding people to his side and by boldness instils fear in the guilty mob. All that is needed to end lynch law are Governors and Sheriffs of the stamp of Governor Stanley. The difficulty in getting them is due to activity in politics of the type of men which makes up lynching mobs and to the inaction of the men who would be disposed to resist them. The result is that the lynchers elect the Sheriffs, and they elect their like. When they stumble on a Governor Stanley, they quail.

RIGHTS OF STATE IN DANGER.

While engaged in passing liquor laws and in trimming state expenditures to keep within the 6 per cent tax limitation, the Legislature would do well not to overlook legislation now before Congress which deeply affects the rights and interests of the state.

In his anxiety to secure a reserve of fuel oil for the Navy, Secretary Daniels is pressing for action on the general leasing bill, with amendments reserving the desired oil land. He may succeed in pushing the bill through Congress at this session as a measure of preparedness. If he should, and if the bill should not be materially amended, the Western states would find that a system of Federal landlordism had been fastened upon them, which would permanently withhold from state taxation and control large and valuable portions of their area.

The bill provided, as introduced, that the rentals derived from coal, oil, gas and phosphate land shall be used in reclamation and that after repayment by settlers one-half shall be paid to the states for use in education. This provision may be amended, as has the Ferris water-power bill in the Senate, to read that the states shall get half of the receipts from the beginning, but even then the land would be exempt from taxation and from state property laws and the state would be restricted to one use for its share of the rentals.

Is the state of Oregon willing to submit to these conditions, and thus to be placed in a position of permanent tutelage, inferior to that which is held by other states whose entire area has passed into private hands? The bill is most vulnerable on the ground both of constitutionality and of public policy. If the state is to resist this Federal encroachment and to defend its rights, now is the time to act.

TAKING THE LEAD IN SHIPS.

The progress which the United States has already made towards regaining its former pre-eminence among shipbuilding nations is summed up in the opinion expressed by the Bureau of Navigation that "during the past twelve months American shipyards have done more to maintain ocean foreign trade uninterruptedly than the shipyards of all other nations together except Great Britain." Even British leadership is threatened, for the bureau says that "during the first nine months of 1916 ocean steel merchant tonnage of American shipyards exceeded by 30,000 tons the British output, though after May 30 British yards began to increase work on merchant shipping."

During the year 1916 there were built in American shipyards 1163 merchant vessels of 520,847 gross tons for American shipowners, besides fifty vessels, of 39,392 gross tons, for foreign owners, a total of 1213 vessels of 560,239 tons. This total has been exceeded in only one year since 1855, namely, in 1908, when the output was 614,216 tons, but in that year the output was mainly for the Great Lakes, while in 1916 it was mainly for ocean foreign trade.

Of the 1916 total, all except 152 vessels of 6868 tons were built on the seacoast or the Great Lakes for ocean and lake navigation, and many lake shipyards are turning out seagoing ships. The exceptions mentioned were built on the Western rivers for inland navigation. The new tonnage was divided among the several sections as follows: Atlantic and Gulf Coast, 312,426; Pacific Coast, 93,818; Great Lakes, 108,235. More than two-thirds of the Pacific Coast tonnage was of steel, namely, 64,144 to 29,174 tons of wood. The total new tonnage is nearly double that of 1915, while the Pacific Coast total has nearly quadrupled.

It depends on the policy recommended by the new Shipping Board and adopted by Congress whether the United States will clinch its hold on this new tonnage. The extent to which the capacity of shipyards is contracted ahead, and the difficulty experienced by the Navy Department in letting contracts for new warships, hold out little prospect that the board will be able to spend its $50,000,000 on new ships. The strides made by the United States in making good the ravages of war go to show that this expenditure would be unnecessary, even if facilities existed for building the ships. This became obvious to all open-minded observers before the law was passed, and that law was forced through a docile Congress chiefly that the President and Secretary McAdoo might be spared the pain of confessing that they had blundered in proposing it.

WHAT THE ENTENTE FIGHTS FOR.

The terms of peace which the entente allies have laid down in their note to President Wilson hold out no hope of an early termination of the war, but they have the merit of stating with some exactness those aims which have hitherto been stated only in general terms.

The allies could not do less than demand the restoration of Belgium, Luxemburg, Serbia, Montenegro and Roumania to independence without confession of defeat or abandonment of the aims for which they took up the Teutons' challenge. But the more completely they should succeed in those aims, the more impossible would it be for them to obtain that reparation. If they should succeed so far, they would probably at the same time have made great progress toward attainment of their other ends and would be encouraged to go on to the finish. But before they had reached even that point, their enemies would be so weakened and impoverished as to be incapable of making reparation.

Turkey and Bulgaria are now mere vassals of the central empires, and they keep the field only with money and material furnished by Germany. They could pay nothing. Austria is approaching, if it has not already reached, the same position. Only Germany would remain to look to, and that country would be so drained by the war expenses of both itself and its allies that it would be in no position to pay the billions of dollars which their enemies would demand to compensate for the damage done in occupied territory. It has been suggested that the allies obtain reparation by imposing an extra tariff on goods from enemy countries after the war and that they hand over the proceeds to the injured countries. The allies know as well as anybody that payment of a huge cash indemnity would be impossible. Their demand may prove to be only the basis for exaction of an equivalent in territory.

Demand for the "liberation of Italians, of Slavs, of Roumanians and of Tcheco Slavoques from foreign domination" points directly at dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, which could be accomplished only by the crushing defeat of that country and its allies. It implies a purpose, and confidence in ability to carry out that purpose, to take from the dual monarchy all territory which is not inhabited chiefly by people of German or Magyar blood. If it were possible to restrict the change to a union, under a government of the inhabitants' own choice, of all territory which is peopled by a vast majority of the same race and language, this purpose would command wide sympathy in the United States and other neutral countries. But there are border lands where two races have mingled and which are claimed by both, by virtue of supremacy gained and lost centuries ago. Though such border lands might be joined to the nation of the majority race, provision would be necessary to protect the rights of the minority race. This would be possible under some international control, which would insure that, when boundaries were once established, they should not be disturbed, and that minority races should have equal rights with the majority. By some such means the Balkan peninsula and adjoining territory might be redeemed from their position as the war breeder of Europe. This would require limits to annexation to which the entente would not submit if it were completely triumphant.

Americans generally will approve of the desire to expel the Turks from Europe, but very many will not approve of the purpose to hand over Constantinople and the surrounding territory, with the straits, to Russia. By its position at the gateway between Europe and Asia, Constantinople has become the meeting place of nations of violently opposed races and creeds. That fact demands that it be neutralized under a government devised by the nations to keep all the mingled population in peace and liberty. The fact that the straits are a water highway between two great seas requires that they, too, be neutralized under the same government. To hand over the straits to Russia or any other power would be only to sow the seed of another war, in which the highway of nations would be closed. Neutrals should have a voice in the settlement, that they may insure its being open at all times.

Germany and Austria have already given practical evidence of an intention to restore a degree of independence to Russian Poland, but the entente powers accept as in good faith the pledge of the Czar to give self-government to all of Poland under his sovereignty. That would include much territory which is now in Germany and Austria, but which was in Poland before the first partition. While complete restoration of Poland would command sympathy the world over, the wrong done to the Poles would be fully undone only if they were delivered from the rule of either a Romanoff, a Hohenzollern or a Hapsburg, and were set totally free to form their own government, and if they should decide on a monarchy, to choose their sovereign, who should have no ties with any other dynasty. By this means alone would Poland be prevented from becoming a cause of future war and become a strong buffer state between Russia and the Teuton empires.

The allies' desire to obtain "restitution of provinces or territories wrested in the past from the allies by force or against the will of their populations" plainly points to the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France. But is it the will of the population to return under French rule? The principle which the allies profess would require that the people be permitted to decide. Those provinces were German for many centuries down to 1648. Between that date and 1871 they became French in language and sympathy. Since 1871 they have become largely Germanized, to what extent a referendum vote along could determine. If Alsace should vote for France, Lorraine for Germany, would the allies consent that each should go its own way? Since there would certainly be a large minority in each, would it not be better for future peace if they formed an independent state with neutrality guaranteed by all the powers? If that were done, Belgium, Luxemburg and Alsace-Lorraine would form a string of such states stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier, and would be a barrier entirely separating France from Germany.

While the allies declare their main purpose to be destruction of the domination of Prussian militarism, they disclaim any desire "to encompass the extermination of the German peoples and their political disappearance." No well-informed, thinking man suspects them of such a design, but the purpose they admit does not augur well for future peace. It implies a change both in the personnel and in the constitution of the German Empire, enforced from without. A change of government thus brought about would be a constant reminder of defeat and would therefore be hateful to the German people, who would be apt to overturn the new government as soon as they felt strong enough. If the allies should be so successful in war as to be able to carry out their other aims, they would have so discredited "the Prussian military caste" in the eyes of the German people that the latter might overthrow it of their own accord. In that event, Germany, having been brought to defeat and ruin by its military rulers and their ambitions, would be apt to establish a democratic government devoted to peace and thus to seek restoration to its place in the family of nations. The question of Prussian militarism may more safely be left to settle itself. Its destruction at the dictates of a foreign foe would be more likely to endear it to the German people.

But the four great entente powers have a long and bloody road to travel before they can put through their programme. It may undergo much trimming before a peace conference meets.

Expansion of the commerce and industry of the United States is limited to the capacity of the railroads to carry their produce. Power of the railroads to enlarge their capacity in order to keep pace with the growth of industry is limited by their ability to obtain capital. Although their net earnings in the last year exceeded $1,000,000,000, this was only 6 per cent on their investment. Will people invest money in a 6 per cent business when they can invest it in industries which are earning from 50 to 3000 per cent? Would you? That is the proposition faced by the railroads. All that they ask is, not that they be relieved from public regulation, but that regulation be made so efficient as to give them reasonable assurance of stable earnings. With that assurance, they could get capital to expand their facilities as increase of traffic demands. That is what the people want. Why not go after it?

A movement, which thus far has gained little headway, has been started in parts of the South to induce negroes to undertake the added colonization of the newly acquired Danish West Indies. Argument is offered by the promoters that the present negro inhabitants are not enterprising and that an infusion of American negroes would be good for the islands themselves, as well as offering a new opportunity for the colonists. The scheme seems fantastic and probably will fail, as other plans for colonizing negroes in various parts of the world have done. Recent demand for labor, which has threatened to cause an exodus from the South to the Northern states, also will militate against a venture into the unknown. The recent unfortunate attempt to start an American colony on the Gold Coast also is too fresh in memory to make the going especially good for men with new colonization schemes.

A few years ago the announcement that Armour & Co. had earned 20 per cent on their capital stock would have called forth remarks about swollen profits. That amount now looks small by comparison with the profits of the munition and automobile companies.

When man would suicide he uses a gun, but woman, unless she be of the meek and lowly, little mousy kind, prefers something overwhelmingly cataclysmic. She knows it will make a readable "story."

A Zeppelin makes its own cloud as a hiding place and carries it along. The next thing should be a tank car which distils its own oil as it tramples on a village, or a machine gun which makes its own cartridges.

If Dan Kellaher knows any one thing better than all the rest, it is the grocery business in all its ramifications and his allegations of a trust may be held as the voice of authority.

Jones of Marion would decorate with a medal each Oregon soldier who went to the border, which is handsome recognition, indeed; but a big, yellow double-eagle looks better.

Wilson's invitation to the half-frozen pickets to come in and have something warm shows a feeling for the workers that does not extend to the cause.

A while ago the Swiss navy was a joke, but now that government has chartered steamships to carry supplies and its flag will be seen on the seas.

It is hardly necessary for Senator Moser to make denial of anything printed about him in a paper of guessable politics.

Did anybody ever consider that a man who commutes a fine at the rate of $2 a day in jail is working under the scale?

Grants Pass sugar is reaching the local market and there is the chance for "Made in Oregon" consumers.

A season that opens late and closes early will have as many good games, and that is what the fans want.

Germany will have the largest navy if this elimination of a battleship a day continues.

Berliners are luckier than Portlanders to get an egg a day during the next fortnight.

A Congressional investigation that does not rip up a Republican is waste time.

Ballplayers who go on strike may be struck out.

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 letters 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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KEEP THE HOUSE AT 60.

DR. JOHN DILL ROBERTSON, of Chicago, recently suggested one method of cutting the high cost of living. His suggestion was that we reduce the temperature of our homes, offices and factories about 10 degrees. In this way we would reduce the high cost of keeping warm, which in midwinter is a large part of the high cost of living.

The statement, coming from the health commissioner, carried with it the thought that we would be healthier if we reduced the temperature of our living places.

The theoretical maximum indoor midwinter temperature in America is 70. Whenever investigation has been made it has been found that this maximum is habitually violated. The average temperature of places run on the go-as-you-please basis is around 72, and the temperature occasionally goes to 78.

Dr. Robertson's proposal is that the temperature of living-rooms, offices and stores be made 60 and that of factories be kept lower still. For these temperatures there is ample European warrant. In no country in Europe are indoor temperatures allowed to go over 68. The usual house tempertaure over there is 60.

There is ample warrant for the recommendation in close observations made in this country. Huntington, in his work, "Civilization and Climate," states that men do their best mental work when the air temperature is 60 and their best physical work when it is about 40, and the average best temperature of the air for work was 50.

He investigated the work of persons doing various forms of piecework at different seasons of the year. The minimum amount of work was done about the last of January. Then there ensued a gradual increase lasting until June, then a moderate decrease lasting until the last of July. In the Autumn the amount of work increased until the maximum was reached in November. Then there came the decline, which terminated in the low production of January. Production was lowest in midwinter, low in midsummer and at its maximum in the Spring and Fall.

Similar conclusions were arrived at as the result of observations on workers making electrical apparatus at Pittsburg, industrial workers in the South, and as the result of strength tests made in Denmark.

It has been found that the students at West Point and Annapolis do their best mental work, especially in mathematics, in the Spring and Fall, and their worst work in midwinter and midsummer.

Observations such as these furnish the basis for Huntington's opinion that the most work and the best work is done when the air around the workers is at 50. Dr. Robertson's suggestion therefore cuts at the high cost of living in three ways—by reducing coal bills, by increasing output of work and by bettering health.

Quit Tobacco and Whisky.

A. A. writes: "In the last year I have had several attacks of unconsciousness which lasted about 20 minutes. I felt well on the succeeding days, but my breathing was difficult until I was well again. I was attacked generally after sleeping soundly. Hardening of the arteries is the cause, I have been told. Is smoking harmful to this ailment? Will drinking a glass of whisky every day harm me? What effect will eating mint have?

REPLY.

Assuming that your trouble is hardening of the arteries, smoking is bad for it; so is drinking whisky, and also eating meat. If you will go on a diet of fruit, bread and vegetables you will be better off. Attend to your bowels. Epilepsy is the cause of spells like this at times.

Oil for Constipation.

J. H. G. writes: "I have been troubled with constipation having had to take some kind of a purge almost every day, until I heard of 'stanolax,' an oil product. This was last Spring, and since then have taken a tablespoonful daily and have had no trouble. Will you kindly give me your opinion as to the advisability of using this oil? Will it do me any harm in the long run?"

REPLY.

This is a form of mineral oil and will not harm you.

Agar for Constipation.

M. J. writes: "Will long continued use of agar-sugar prove harmful to the stomach or intestines? (2) Does it ever cure constipation, or simply relieve it? Have taken it daily for over a year. When I stop taking it I am still troubled with constipation. The stomach is irritated and much troubled by gas. (3) Would the agar form gas? (4) Is there a cure for sagging stomach?

REPLY.

1. I do not think so.
2. Yes. Agar absorbs water and provides bulk for the intestinal content. During the period of its use the eating and bowel habits must be changed if permanent good is to result. As examples, a taste for rougher, coarser, less concentrated foods must be developed. The habit of regularity must be established.
3. I do not think so.
4. By building up the muscles sagging of the abdomen can be overcome, or practically so. By proper dieting a moderate dilation of the stomach can be cured.

Should Train Yourself.

Texas writes: "I am a girl 19 years old. I have a severe pain in my stomach on my left side, at times this place gets a little sore. I am also nervous when I get excited. I cry and tremble. Sometimes I ache and hurt all over just like I was going to chill. Do you think I need the advice of a doctor?"

REPLY.

You are oversensational and probably hysterical. You need some wholesome advice probably from a physician. You should be able to train yourself out of ill health into good health.

Kidneys Not Disturbed.

M. W. writes: "I am 20 years old and am bothered with my kidneys terribly lately, especially when sitting down long. There seems to be a very strong odor. Kindly advise me as soon as possible, as I intend to get married around March next."

REPLY.

There is nothing the matter with your kidneys. If you will drink enough water and adjust your exercise to your eating and your eating to your exercise the odor complained of will disappear.

ADVANTAGE TAKEN OF EMPLOYES

Employers Often Profit From Knowledge of Their Needy Condition.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me space to write the facts as to the employer and his employed. Sometimes a person becomes disgusted with his work because the employer does not pay enough wages for the work done. Sometimes it is the employe's own fault and sometimes the employer is too tight and tries to get all he can out of the help for the least money.

I am writing from experience, for I was hired to work eight hours a day at $40 a month, providing I could do the work.

The time given was up and I went to my employer and asked for a raise. I was told that business was too poor to permit it. I doubted him, for I knew what my end of the work amounted to and did not forget. I helped out a great deal in other departments, and was also told by the head of my department that my work was more than satisfactory.

Again I asked for more money, repeated what I was told, and the answer was if I did not want to work for $40 I could quit.

What was I to do? I could not leave, for I had folks depending on me, and took the blow. I had not nerve enough to ask again, for I feared I would be handed a blue envelope.

Is it fair that persons who work conscientiously for the benefit of their firm should be trodden on because their circumstances be known. I know some people doubt this, but it is true. It happens every day.

EDWARD R. RUMLEY.

New Year Resolutions Digested.

PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(To the Editor.)—On January 2 an interesting letter appeared in The Oregonian from the pen of the Rev. Alexander Beers. It was interesting from the point of view of a workingman, to which tribe your humble servant happens to belong.

We don't doubt the sincerity of Mr. Beers, but in his boundless good will toward everyone, the portion which he allotted to the homeless and the friendless was the kind you collect on the Evergreen Shore. Also he wished for the workingman good jobs, contented minds (which means don't strike) and adequate pay for faithful service. How much "adequate" is we don't know, but suppose it means enough to keep us in working trim, and perhaps, reproduce our kind.

He has something more subtantial for the business elements, calling upon the Almighty for special blessing and a year of unsurpassed prosperity and growth.

There is a lesson in psychology here and we wonder if it couldn't be solved by economic determinism.

HENRY CHINLUND.
204 Madison street.

When Oregon Was Admitted.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—(1) To settle an argument, please state the year in which Oregon was admitted to the Union; also who was President at the time.

(2) Please tell where I can write to find out the names of the different moving picture companies and their addresses. A SUBSCRIBER.

(1) February 14, 1859. James Buchanan was President.

(2) Write to Motion Picture Editor, The Oregonian, enclosing self-addressed stamped envelope.

Inscription on Vase.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please translate this for me? It was on a vase I received for Christmas: "Firenze, Museo Nazionale, Madonna, Luca della Robbia."

MRS. C. P. LAWRENCE.

The inscription indicates that the vase is after Luca della Robbia's "Madonna," preserved in the National Museum at Florence, Italy. Luca della Robbia was a noted sculptor of the 15th century and inventor of enameled terra cotta. "Firenze" is the Italian spelling of Florence.

"Drunk" and "Canyon."

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me (1) if "I have drunk" is correct; also (2) which is correct, "canyon" or "canon."

A SUBSCRIBER.

(1) It is correct.
(2) Either.

It Is Not Good Form.

PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise if it is considered good form for a man to wear dress gloves unbuttoned and turned down at the top. A SUBSCRIBER.

In Other Days

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian January 13, 1892.

Washington—Senators Dolph and Mitchell have been successful in getting two new revenue cutters for the Pacific Coast and a life-saving station at the mouth of the Rogue River.

"Pap" Lytle, right fielder of the Portland team, arrived from San Francisco yesterday. He is at the Esmond.

Don Jose de Sepulveda is a Mexican gentleman registered at the St. Charles from Mazatlan.

The first marriage in Yamhill County was that of Jesse C. Henderson and Elizabeth Moore about April 1, 1846, at the residence of Dr. Johnson near Amity.

A. B. Smart was elected president of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association last night. A. D. Tufts and George Gardner were elected vice-presidents, and Robert Holman, secretary, and Charles Bartram treasurer.

The Waldrop children gave a very entertaining programme at the Baptist Tabernacle on the East Side last night.

Now that the state Democratic convention has been set for April 19 the 1892 campaign has started. Among the names mentioned for the Congressional race are: Senator R. M. Veath, of Cottage Grove, and Senator Jeff Myers, of Linn County, for the first district; J. H. Raley, of Pendleton, and ex-United States Senator James H. Slater, of La Grande, for the Second District. The Republicans, it is understood, look to Charles A. Johns, Mayor of Baker City, as a likely candidate.

Gun and Train Problem.

U. S. DREDGE UMATILLA, Upper Columbia, Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—In regard to the problem of a gun fired from the end of a train, supposing there is a boy standing on the train, by the gun, with a ball in hand, and there is an enemy six miles behind chasing gun and train, at the same speed or any speed. Do you, or anyone, mean to tell me that the projectile fired with a full charge at that object will drop to the ground and have no more power than that boy's ball? If so, what becomes of the power of the powder or dynamite or whatever material the gun's charge is composed of?

What earthly use is a stern-chasing gun to a fast-fighting vessel being chased by another?

JOHN BYRNE.
Ex-Quartermaster.

The correspondent overlooks the fact that the gun and train problem conceives an impracticable hypothesis and that is that the cannon discharges the projectile at an initial velocity of only 60 miles an hour. A rifle bullet's velocity is about 1000 miles an hour and a larger projectile attains a corresponding speed depending on the charge and type of gun. It is not difficult to throw a baseball at an initial velocity of 60 miles an hour. The genius who conceived the problem probably did not suggest a baseball because in that event the problem would puzzle no one. To make it interesting he invented an impossible cannon, relying on the confusion with real cannon the problem would engender in the minds of those interested.

Worst Is Yet to Come.

WEISER, Idaho, Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Being a citizen of Portland I have read with much interest of the Willbridge jitney question.

We had good car service out there, considering the revenue derived from it and operating expenses. But the people nursed unkindly feeling toward corporate interests that have millions invested in some other sections of our city, and chose a bug in place of safety and reasonable comfort.

If the citizens do not change their attitudes soon on this question they can expect to see more concrete, steel and ties coming up in the near future.

P. G. KESTER.

When Columbia Was Frozen.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me whether the Columbia River has been frozen over sufficiently to enable a person to walk from Portland to Vancouver at any time in the past 10 years.

A SUBSCRIBER.

A number of persons walked across the Columbia River at Vancouver on the ice in Januaary, 1909. Attempts were made a year ago to cross on the ice jam, but failed.

Superior in News Service and Timely Information

The Sunday Oregonian

HE SAW LINCOLN NOMINATED—At Hood River resides E. L. Smith, former Secretary of Washington Territory, who witnessed the nomination of the Great Emancipator at the epochal Chicago convention of May, 1860. By special correspondence comes a splendid story to The Sunday Oregonian, relating Mr. Smith's interesting recollections.

HERBERT KAUFMAN'S PAGE—Bold, black type on clean, white paper—that's the way the Kaufman page fronts its readers. And every sentence of it is equally assertive of independence and manhood and cleanliness, and everybody thinks so. Read "The Man Who Wants to Do It All."

WILL WOMAN'S SOLE SOLVE HER MYSTERY?—Not finger-prints, a la Bertillon, but footprints on white paper—made when the anxious fair one sets her trilby down to take the impression that may solve fate's design—are interpretive of character and physical poise, says Royal Dixon. Offering also photographs of a few feet to prove it.

OUR ARMY IN ALASKA—Frank G. Carpenter's travel story of our soldiers in the Alaskan country, telling of the different Army posts and the work undertaken by the service. With photographs. Word of a domain where the War Department builds and maintains telegraph lines, wagon roads and trails.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL—A page to each, and each replete with information of interest. The Sunday sermon is by Rev. A. C. Moses, pastor of Waverley Heights Congregational Church. The Sunday Oregonian's page of Portland school news is edited by an able staff of student writers.

PERSONS AND SCENES CAUGHT BY CAMERA—Pictures of world events and characters, forming a splendid photographic news service—appearing regularly in the Sunday issue. With accompanying paragraphs of explanation.

POEMS OF HEART INTEREST—"My Ain Countrie," and "The Miller of the Dee," lead the contributions on the weekly page of favorite verse, assembled from treasured clippings and jealously guarded scrap-books. Will Carleton, too, is there, firm favorite of the late '70s, with "The Schoolmaster's Guests." Read it again.

SPRING STYLES FOR MILADY—Models of the moment described andf depicted in The Sunday Oregonian, with hints to the votaries of Fashion. Also a little story about women who have won fame in the war zone and fields of less danger.

5¢—THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN—5¢