The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 1917.

CAN THEY STOP IT?

It has been suggested to The Oregonian that an emergency clause attached to the bone-dry prohibition law will not prevent a referendum of its essential parts. It is a novel contention and its foundation is about as follows:

The original direct legislation amendment, adopted in 1902, defines the powers reserved to the people. It declares: "The second power is the referendum and it may be ordered, except as to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety." Then follows the manner or mode of procedure to be followed in exercising the referendum power.

Four years later the people adopted a second amendment, which contains this provision: "The referendum may be demanded by the people against one or more items, sections or parts of any act of the legislative assembly in the same manner in which such power may be exercised against a complete act. The filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections or parts of an act shall not delay the remainder of that act from becoming operative."

The foregoing quotation is the later enactment of the people and prevails in points of essential conflict. Rigidly construed, it makes no exception of emergency laws in exercising the item referendum. If only a rigid construction is permissible, then the teeth of the bone-dry law may be subjected to vote of the people while the whole act may not, assuming that it will carry an emergency clause.

The Oregonian will not attempt to pass upon the issue thus raised. It confesses that court decisions are often confusing to the mind of the layman. For example, our State Supreme Court, in a recent decision, in which the intent of the framers of a constitutional amendment was one of the determining factors, said: "'He who made the law knows best how it ought to be interpreted' is not less true now than it was when Rousseau wrote." Probably no one will seriously contend that the framers of the 1906 direct legislation amendment intended to make a distinction between a general referendum and an item referendum. Yet in language they did. Which reminds us, in passing, that we are continually doing or attempting to do reckless things with the constitution.

But the United States Supreme Court seems to entertain a different view concerning Rousseau's pronouncement concerning the weight of the lawmaker's intent. In a very recent decision it refused to consider the record of the Congressional debate which disclosed Congress' intent in passing the Mann white slave act to be only the suppression of commercialized vice. It held that the law was what it read; that to construe it as making an exception of non-commercialized vice would be legislating by the court.

So there you are. Who will be brave enough to assert that the courts will or will not rule that the law means what it says? Perhaps, too, nobody will put them to the test. Even so, there is food for reflection in the fact that this apparent conflict in the constitution has existed for nearly eleven years. We have passed through several trying controversies over emergency clauses with their brutal denial of the right of the people to pass upon some of the Legislatures' work. It required something stimulating, like a law abolishing stimulants, to bring out the delving powers of the constitution sharps.

POTATO THRIFT.

Unpleasant as the prospect may be to some, there is a strong probability that a few of the measures of thrift long practiced by the more careful people of other countries will soon be forced upon those of the United States. There is, for example, the matter of our supply of seed for the potato crop of the coming season.

It has been suggested by a correspondent that the people ought to be reminded before it is too late that they can help by saving the "seed end" of the potatoes they are now consuming, for the purpose of planting later on. This so-called "seed end," by the way, is the part that once was thrown away by some fastidious growers, for a reason not altogether plain; but it is a fact that the housewife, especially in the family that grows its own supply of potatoes, or a portion of it, can contribute materially to the seed stock by resorting to just that practice, or a modification of it. It is the "eye" of the potato that is the valuable part for purposes of propagation, and there was a time in our own country when people did not hold themselves above saving even the peelings around planting time, so that the eyes might be planted when the main crop was put into the ground. This was in the day of scarce seed and difficult transportation, and every little thing was made to count. Such practices have long been common in parts of Europe. The potato grower who is accustomed to grander methods will not approve them, perhaps, but it may yet become a question not of choice but of absolute necessity.

Crops of succeeding years invariably suffer as a result of periods of abnormally high prices, because of the temptation to sell everything marketable, reserving only the poorest grain, or potatoes, or whatnot, for the coming planting. It is a happy-go-lucky system and it causes havoc with good farming; but human nature is what it is and the remedy is easier to point out than to enforce. The fact is that it may yet come to a point where we will be compelled to plant our potato peelings or get along with an exceedingly short crop next year. Failure to plant enough for our own needs would be a serious matter, for there is little likelihood that there will be a source upon which we can draw to make up the deficiency, and then prices will be higher than ever. In any event, the quality of next season's crop is bound to be below par as a result of past neglect.

MORE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature is ornamented with an abundance of lawyers, who are of course familiar with the provisions of our most elastic, though highly admirable, constitution, from the venerable preamble to the newest notion of Mr. U'Ren's able and indefatigable body of law givers.

Just now the Legislature is giving due consideration to the important matter of delinquent tax notices, and is apparently divided between postal cards and newspapers. It has been suggested, as a way out of the dilemma, that the law providing for publication of tax delinquencies be so arranged as to authorize newspaper publication for the state at large but postal cards for Multnomah. Let us submit for the consideration of the legislators the following explicit provision from the Oregon constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 23):

> The Legislative Assembly shall not pass special or local laws in any of the following cases, that is to say:
>
> . . . . . .
>
> 10—For the assessment and collection of taxes for state, county, township or road purposes.

Publication of the names and parcels, or private notice to delinquents, is unquestionably part of the process of tax collection.

Shall the taxes be collected by one method in Portland and by another in the state at large?

SOUND LIVING.

President Wilson is asked to try the experiment of a 25-cent-per-day diet and he has graciously said that he would talk to Mrs. Wilson about it. Clearly no American husband has a right to interfere with the domestic economy of his household without full sanction of the other responsible head of the establishment. The President makes it obvious that he observes the proprieties.

Doubtless the enterprising dietitian who sought his aid told him that the experiment would be a fine thing for the Nation. But it would also be excellent for the President and his lovely wife. On both accounts it ought to be tried.

Of course we all know that there is nothing really new to be learned about health, or exercise, or eating, or drinking. But it seems to be necessary to be reminded constantly that the laws of one's physical being are not to be violated with impunity. It is interesting to note that more than 100 years ago—in 1773, to be exact—a great philosopher and greater observer wrote the following from London:

> The gentry of England are remarkably afraid of moisture and of air; but seamen, who live in perpetually moist air, are always healthy if they have good provisions. . . . I have long thought that mere moist air has no ill effect on the constitution. But we abound in absurdity and inconsistency. Thus, though it is generally agreed that taking the air is a good thing, yet what caution against air! what stopping of crevices! what wrapping up in warm clothes, what shutting of doors and windows, even in the midst of Summer! Many London families go out once a day to take the air, three or four persons in a coach, one perhaps sick; these go three or four miles or as many turns in Hyde Park, with the glasses both up close, all breathing, over and over again, the same air they brought out of town with them in the coach, with the least change possible and rendered worse and worse every moment; and this they call "taking the air!" From many years' observation on myself and others, I am persuaded we are on a wrong scent in supposing moist or cold air the cause of that disorder we call a "cold." Some unknown quantity in the air may sometimes produce cold, as in the "influenza," but generally, I apprehend, they are the effects of too full living in proportion to our exercise.

What Ben Franklin knew everybody nowadays knows, or ought to know. But how few there are that govern themselves accordingly.

THE WATER-POWER HOLD-UP.

There is abundant reason for the adoption by the Oregon Legislature of Senator Gill's resolution memorializing Congress to pass laws for the development of water power without delay. The subject has been thoroughly threshed out and the rights of the Nation and the states have been defined by the ablest lawyers and legislators in the country. In the Shields bill relating to navigable streams the rights of both are made secure, the interest of the consumer and of the general public is amply safeguarded and capital is afforded security without opportunity for extortion. No power company would be able to escape effective public regulation and right of the public to buy in power plants is established.

The bigoted Pinchotites block action on two points. They insist on exaction of rental from power companies, obstinately refusing to recognize that such a charge would only be passed on to the consumer. They also insist that no lease be given without authority of a special act of Congress, each of which would reopen the entire controversy. The Pinchot fanatics should be put to the right-about and the bill should be passed as it stands, with the addition of a proviso that all plants erected on public land be subject to state taxation. The Myers bill, relating to power on public land, should be amended to follow the general lines of the Shields bill, with the same proviso.

The present situation is a travesty on conservation, which has become the most abused word in the English language. As the Gill resolution says, "the essence of conservation is intelligent and economical utilization of natural resources." The essence of Pinchotism is to prevent utilization of natural resources until the dictates of Mr. Pinchot and his little band of doctrinaires are accepted. It is flat denial of conservation, for it means indefinite waste. It is a hold-up, for it aims to weary the West into surrender of its fundamental right of self-government and of taxation by blocking development.

The Gill resolution should be adopted by as overwhelming a vote as that by which the Water-Power Conference was called two years ago. Oregon should reiterate its declaration for conservation with use and with due respect for the rights of the states.

There is a growing tendency on the part of American colleges and universities to extend their field of usefulness so that adults who neglected certain points in their education in early life may avail themselves of opportunities for special training without being required to pass those formal entrance examinations which would be a bar to most men of mature years. One such institution in New York, supported by public funds, has recently obtained an extension of its charter which permits it to take up this work, and to finance it in part by charging a fee, to which prospective adult students do not object, and the demand for such a course is shown by enrollment of 2500 in this division in a few weeks. The need of adult workers for larger educational advantages is being met in various parts of the country, where the school systems are gradually adding afternoon and evening courses of study, continuation work and part-time study, and where co-operation between business and the schools is shown to be one of the most significant of recent developments in the educational system.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The President has invented the pleasing and striking phrase—"Peace without victory"—to describe the neutral world's just expectation of the rightful attitude of all the belligerents at the end of the war.

What does "peace without victory" mean? A peace that would leave neither side in the position of victor? A draw? A fight to mutual exhaustion? An inconclusive and uncertain termination of a terrific struggle, involving millions of men and costing millions of lives? Or an agreement all around to quit, and start anew?

Peace without victory would not have settled the great question of slavery, or preserved the Union, in the Civil War.

Nor would peace without victory have separated the American colonies forever from Great Britain and have established a free republic under the American flag.

The President knows that. He knows, for example, that there was no peace in Europe, or in all the world, until Napoleon was overthrown at Waterloo. History is full of just such illustrations.

Doubtless the smooth and catchy "peace-without-victory" phrase was meant to mean nothing more than the expression of a hope or desire that there be peace without national extinction, or annihilation, or subjection, or overthrow.

The world wants a peace which will permit every nation to pursue its national destiny without limitation upon the right of any other nation to do the same. If that is what peace without victory shall ultimately achieve, all will be well, for "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."

IMPROVE LOGGING STREAMS.

As the lumber industry of the United States is now entering on a period of great and, as there is good reason to believe, prolonged prosperity, it is of utmost importance to the interests of Oregon that the industry in this state should have all facilities which the law can grant for its conduct on terms equal with those prevailing in competing states. The matter is of interest to the whole state, for upon lumber, as its chief industry, the state is mainly dependent for its general well-being.

A necessity of this industry is cheap transportation of logs from forest to mill, for which nature has provided Oregon with abundant means in the shape of many streams down which logs could be floated if only the streams were improved. For lack of law providing for this improvement, few streams have been made passable for logs, charges on these few are not regulated, and loggers pay from $1.50 to $2.50 per thousand feet for hauling by railroad thirty to fifty miles, though logs could be driven down improved streams for the same distance at one-third of the same cost. Timber along river banks has mostly been logged off and, in the absence of river improvement under public regulation, railroads are the only means of reaching that which is farther back. Only rich owners of large tracts of timber can afford to build, and they build through their own timber. Owners of small tracts must either let their timber stand or must pay their neighbors high rates for hauling logs.

To remedy this situation, a bill has been introduced in the State Senate by Senator Olson providing for improvement of streams for logging purposes, though navigation in general would benefit. The bill declares navigable streams to be public highways, and any stream on which logs can be floated is declared navigable. It places corporations doing a boom business under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission, and requires that body to establish rules for the operation of boom companies, penalties for failure to observe these rules, and rates to be paid by owners of logs which use the companies' improvements. Rates must be just and equitable, dependant on the amount of service performed, the actual investment of the company and the cost of operation, the value of the franchise not being considered. Corporations desiring to engage in the business of floating, driving, rafting and booming logs must obtain a franchise from the Public Service Commission, must begin work within a reasonable time and must give continuous service. Companies already engaged in the business may obtain franchises under the bill by filing amended articles of incorporation and have a preference right to a franchise for ninety days. The improvements contemplated consist of removing rocks, trees and other obstructions from the beds and banks of streams to give an unobstructed flow of water, of protection of banks, construction of booms and of dams. Boom companies must handle all forest products offered without discrimination, and are given the right of lien for their services.

The bill differs from that which was introduced two years ago by Senator Olson in the fact that it gives no right of condemnation. It gives the right to boom companies to enter upon streams and their banks to clear and improve them and upon adjacent land to recover logs, and simply gives the land owner the right of compensation for damages suffered. Dams may be built only by permit of the Public Service Commission, to be granted after public hearing and proof of public necessity, but not without consent of the owner of property to be occupied. The bill of 1915 was almost identical with the law of Washington, which gives the right of eminent domain. Failure to operate continuously or violation of the rules works forfeiture of the franchise. A fee of five cents per thousand feet of logs is provided to pay expenses of carrying out the law.

Laws of this kind have been in operation in Eastern states for fifty years and in Washington for ten years, with most beneficial results. Adoption of the bill of 1915 was prevented only by the opposition of certain interests unwilling to come under public regulation. With this exception, the timbermen are a unit in favor of the present bill. Not only they but the homesteaders would benefit. For example, on the Siuslaw River, which is navigable for sixty miles and is the only means of moving logs from 60 per cent of its watershed, the homesteader who clears land could sell his logs to the mill at the mouth, but many logs are now caught by obstructions and on the banks. They may not reach tidewater for five or six years, but until they do he gets nothing for them. Both the farmer and the small timber owner will be able to market logs if the stream is improved, and clearing and farming of the land will be hastened.

This bill is decidedly in the interest of owners of timber in both small and large tracts and of settlers generally. It is open to objection only by those boom companies which wish to monopolize timber and to practice exactions on their neighbors, free from public control. The rights which it gives will benefit all riparian owners, and it will enable the progressives to override the objections of the obstructionists. In order that Oregon may keep pace with other states in development of its lumber industry, the bill should be passed.

ANOMALIES OF THE BIRTH RATE.

Statistics compiled by the Census Bureau, showing that in certain registration areas of the United States during 1916 the birth rate was 24.9 for each 1000 inhabitants, and that of each 1000 babies born 100, or an even tenth, died before the end of their first year, are not so striking in themselves as when comparison is made with the birth rate and the rate of infant mortality in other countries. The conclusion that a high birth rate necessarily means a high death rate is borne out in a few countries, and then it is completely set at naught by the figures from others. For example, the birth rate in Australia, 28.3 per 1000 inhabitants, which is precisely that of Germany, is attended by a death rate of 78 per 1000 infants born, which is the fourth lowest of record and compares with a death rate of 147 for Germany. The lowest birth rate, on the other hand, is recorded by France, with 19 per 1000, and this country has the third lowest infant mortality rate in the world. The highest birth rate, 144, is that of Russia, which also has the highest death rate, 248. But Norway, with a birth rate of 25.3, which is higher than that of the United States, has the lowest infant death rate of all, 65, and Sweden, with a birth rate of 23.8, only slightly below that of the United States, has a death rate next to that of Norway, 71.

The Census Bureau explains that the infant mortality figures for the United States are no better than they are because necessarily all classes of the population are included, and the average is made higher by the inclusion of the foreign population in the crowded districts, where not only do the customs of the mother country prevail but conditions are otherwise unfavorable for saving babies.

The figures show that the expectant infant has the best chance of surviving in the Scandinavian countries, in Australia, and even in France. But his best chance to be born lies in Russia, and after that in Italy. The infant death rate of Italy, however, is lower than that of either Russia, Austria or Germany. Switzerland and Holland also help to illustrate the fact that a nation need not be great in point of population to be in the forefront when it comes to baby saving. Their death rate is meritoriously low.

A Coburg girl has brought the Great Sorrow to her home by eloping to California with a young man, who left her on the street when his money ran out. In these days when general education is supplemented along special lines by the moving pictures, it would seem that girls ought to be "wise" to unalterable facts.

Reports that gold has been transferred at sea to the German raiders will whet the appetite of the British cruisers for their capture. There would be fat prize money for the British tars if the ships were taken, but what gnashing of teeth if the Germans were to sink them!

The New York Stock Exchange has been investigated so often that it is becoming expert at dealing with the probers. If Mr. Whipple should extract some new truths at the leak inquiry, he will make a reputation which may lift him to high political honors.

When the white pine lumbermen come to the Douglas fir belt and buy big tracts of timber, it is a sign that there is going to be some activity in the Pacific Coast lumber business. The men of the interior are staking their money on it.

A woman member of the Chicago School Board accuses high school principals of preferring youth, beauty and figure to brains in their teachers, which may be true. Some men in authority have human frailties.

Between rival schemes of consolidation, the entire scheme of consolidation is apt to come to the ground. If the Legislature does not act, the people are likely to take a hand.

With deposits of more than $164,000,000 in the banks of the state, Oregon scoffs at the Democratic idea of "viewing with alarm" anything that may or may not happen.

If American gold is going to Germany it is for the reason that America has received its value in something that could not be obtained elsewhere. This is business.

J. Ogden Armour may not be, as he admits, a writer of advertisements; but in the preparation of an essay on "hoss" sense his rank is undisputed.

The record-breaking car shortage may be simple history by Spring, which is the way the horse thought while being fed on straw all Winter.

There are two views of the semi-monthly pay day and one is that the earner spends his money twice as often when he gets it that way.

British comment on President Wilson's peace speech may be summed up thus: "You're a nice fellow, but—" then a string of epithets.

If that prize cow which sold for $5000 were in Germany her week's output of butter would sell for almost as much as she is worth.

The Owyhee project has been dropped and Oregon gets another slap for not having ridden on the bandwagon in November.

The "leak" inquiry will be postponed, perhaps in an effort to forget it.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

WALTER GILBERT is of the opinion that with eggs soaring skward the hen is truly mightier than the sword.

* * *

And his pal, Walter Siegried, added that with eggs and cabbages topping the produce market in point of prices the old-fashioned home talent performers have a most auspicious outlook ahead of 'em.

* * *

Which does not sound encouraging to me, for if there is one thing that makes me more wretched than another it is realizing that old-fashioned or modern home-talent performers have any sort of a look out. Or look in.

* * *

Laura Hope Crews is in the cast with Henry Kolker in a revival of "Her Husband's Wife," a three-act comedy. Henry Miller is its sponsor.

* * *

Fuller Mellish and his daughter, Vera Fuller Mellish, are appearing together in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," a revival now in progress at the Park Theater in New York. Robert Mantell, Jr., is also in the play, and Isabel Irving is playing Mistress Page. Constance Collier has the role of Mistress Ford.

* * *

Irene Oshier, for a brief while last season with the Baker stock in leads, is appearing in "In for the Night," a three-act farce written by James Savery, and presented in New York by the Empire Producing Corporation.

* * *

Read where an actress has just left a diamond-mounted powder puff to a young man friend. Hardly believed my eyes until I read a little farther along and found out that his name is Chauncey Le Roy.

* * *

Worry note for the vaudeville artist who sits in a spotlight and sings about life's being a serious proposition after all. The price of cigarettes is going higher.

* * *

A manufacturer says that men are better auto critics than are women. Guess he never heard me or my sisterhood flash our criticisms when we just escape being run over by one.

* * *

Don't you love the noise the "silent" sentinels are making.

* * *

Still, it's a vindication of our sex, girls, to read that "a bunch of women keep still for hours." Apparently it can be done.

* * *

Newspaper account tells of an actor and actress who had "kept company" for twenty-odd years, and then got married. I predict that any pair afraid of each other for twenty-odd years are going to have a sweet mess keeping peace at home.

* * *

Ruth Gates says her idea of a "brilliant" party is the convention of cut-glass manufacturers now in session.

* * *

At the Collingwood Opera-House in Poughkeepsie last week John Cort presented for the first time on any stage "Mother Carey's Chickens," a play in three acts by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Rachel Crothers from the book of the same name by Miss Wiggin. The story is far removed from the theatrical or sensational, a theme of mother love with clever touches of character and a graceful play of rich humor being undercurrent throughout.

The cast includes among others Marion Barney. Miss Barney used to be a Baker leading woman.

Kate Douglas Wiggin, Rachel Crothers, John Cort and many others from New York witnessed the performance.

* * *

Arnold Daly is convalescent from an operation for peritonitis in the Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

* * *

Another theatrical man, Al Hayman, is rallying from a third paralytic stroke. He is confined to his apartments at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

* * *

Mabel McCone, whose chief claim to our attention out here on this Coast is that she was one of Joseph Howard's several partners, is to be starred by A. H. Woods. The medium chosen for Miss McCone's venture is "The Girl From Ciro's," a musical piece in three acts, written in the original by Pierre Veber and Maurice Soudie, and now embellished with music by Joseph Szule. "The Girl From Ciro's" is now in its ninth month at the Garrick Theater, London, and it will be prepared for American production within a few weeks.

While it isn't generally known, "The Girl From Ciro's" is nothing else but the well-remembered "The Girl From Rector's," which introduced Mr. Woods to Broadway theatricals. In its first form the piece was a farce called "Loute." In Paris it registered hundreds of performances. "The Girl From Rector's" was deemed at the time of its production one of New York's naughtiest plays, but it thrived for months at Weber's Theater and subsequently, as presented by several companies on tour, vastly entertained rural art lovers.

Mabie is blonde and beautiful and can sing barely enough to be a musical comedy prima donna.

* * *

Nellie Fillmore, one of the best-known character actresses of our stage, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of her debut by creating the role of Salina, a colored servant in the new Harris Dickson comedy, "A Nigger in the Woodpile," which Madison Corey and Joseph Riter have in preparation under the direction of Harrison Grey Fiske.

Miss Fillmore's first appearance was in 1877 in the varieties. Soon afterwards she acted the part of Biddy McShane, the old apple woman in support of Katie Emmet in "Waifs of New York." A more recent engagement was that of the landlady in "A Country Boy."

* * *

Marie Hamilton, in the "Lilac Domino," at the Heilig tonight, opines that it is the easiest thing to pick a married man. Which, we might remark, is one of the causes of the divorce evil. Some other woman picks him.

* * *

It's like that ancient wheeze about always being able to tell a married woman. The answer is "Yeh, but you can't tell 'em anything they don't know."

* * *

The statement that there are many chorus girls in third-rate shows who earn—or get—less than $10 a week, fails utterly to elicit my condolence. I have to watch 'em dance.

* * *

Read where they've just sent six tons of hair pins from Brooklyn, consigned to the lone Pitcairn Islands. Hope it's enough to keep the girls on the islands warm during February.

ARE MINORS OBTAINING LIQUOR?

Observer at Express Office Remarks on Incidents of One Day.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Having heard of the crowds at the Wells-Fargo liquor department that broke in the front of the counter and tore the buttons off each other's clothes, I went down to see for myself. The crowd, I found, was small and there was no disorder, but I did see some things that have since caused me to do a lot of thinking.

While watching the people, a young girl came to the table near which I stood to wrap her package. She looked suspiciously near 21, and I wondered how she had been able to get her liquor. Several men were at the table, and when the girl seemed clumsy, one of them wrapped her package for her. She did not appear to know any of the men, but was perfectly willing to "jolly" with them. The man who had wrapped the package asked if he could carry it home for her, and they went out together. It did not look good, but it was no affair of mine.

A few moments later, however, a girl came in who might possibly have been 18 (she could not have been 21). I decided to see what proof of her right to receive liquor would be demanded, and stepped up behind her at the counter. In the crowd I was unnoticed. Most of the people had postcards. This little girl did not. The clerk took a large card from a rack behind him and said: "Is this your name? Do you live at this address?" "Yes," was the answer, and he gave her the card. Not a word as to her age; no question of identity. I wondered what the card was for and what she would do with it, but she did not hesitate. She knew.

Half way down the counter was a knot of people. There did not seem to be clerks enough here, and we had to wait some time. One of the clerks had a "spiel" like a barker for a circus. "Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, and get your prize packages. Every package contains a prize—no blanks." The whole thing seemed to be a farce. Presently the little girl's turn came. She signed in three places and giggled while the clerk mumbled something about the truth and repeated his remarks about the prize package. She did not read the affidavit. No one did. Still there was no question as to her age.

At the end of the counter the little girl paid 5 cents and got her liquor. In all the time she was there no one asked her age; no one questioned her. She had no trouble whatever in getting her package. And that little girl was not 21.

I suppose it is "business" with the express company, but what is the matter with the authorities?

If the present laws are not enforced, will the new ones be any better observed? Almost everywhere people treat the matter of liquor shipments lightly. Here are some of the answers I have received:

"Suppose the District Attorney did see Mary Smith at the bottom of an affidavit, how could he tell whether she was 16 or 60? And if next week she is Annie Jones, who cares?"

"Affidavits? Oh, yes; but they only have two men checking them. They are more than a month (20,000) behind now, and when the new law is passed nobody will look at them."

"Booze? Sure, you can get all you want and no one will ever ask you about it."

I wanted to ask the District Attorney about it, and went down to the Courthouse. There a young man politely but firmly told me that I could not see him; he was busy. It was suggested I see a deputy. The deputy also was busy, and after a wait I was compelled to leave without seeing either of them.

It will be impossible for me to see the District Attorney again before leaving the city, but there are some questions I would like to have answered.

Is it easier now for minors to get liquor than it was when the town was wide open?

Are there but two men checking those thousands of affidavits, and is it a mere form?

Can you get "all the booze you want" by express, and will "nobody ever ask you about it?"

I would like to know.

ARTHUR J. MILLER.

CONSOLIDATION HELD NECESSARY

Mr. Wright Inquires Why Members of Legislature Cannot Agree.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Today's dispatches indicate that the Senate and House are widely disagreed on the question of what State Commissions are to be consolidated. There seems to be nobody quarrelling with the premise or conclusion that some consolidation is necessary and must be made for the sake of economy. The writer is on friendly terms with the personnel of all commissions and has no adverse comments on the qualifications of any one.

The general public feels the same way and if daily expressions mean anything, that public is asking on the streets, why? It wants to know whether the failure of the Legislature to act, in the face of the already admitted conclusion, is due to a survival of the fittest, or a survival of the influential among the personnel? The whole matter is viewed from the taxpayers' standpoint alone by the general public. If the Legislature fails to handle the situation in the same intelligent and comprehensive manner that a large railroad would handle its business, then the public is quite likely to promote an initiative bill to provide for it.

The writer is not in sympathy with such a course whenever the matter can be attended to by the Legislature and hopes it will be done that way. The Legislature surely knows that this legislation is demanded; also that appointments ought to be made on all commissions by the Governor, in order to hold him responsible for securing practical men.

ROBERT C. WRIGHT.

TUITION FOR NON-RESIDENTS

Writer Would Make Charge in Higher Institutions of Learning.

CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The taxpayers of Oregon are burdened now to the point of breaking. Why should they pay for the college education of the youth of other states? An education at college is not in the same class as high school. The student is far better able to grasp a higher education, if he works for it, or waits until he is older.

Even a small tuition fee from each outside student would lighten the burden on the property holder. The burden falls too heavily on the small owner of property. He helps to educate the Oregon boys and also those from other states, and even foreign countries, when, perhaps, his own boy can barely afford to go through high school.

Boys come from all over the world because they can get free tuition. Most of them come from states that have universities and colleges. I believe in education, but I do not believe in robbing Peter to pay Paul. Those who come from outside the state should pay to the state a fee for entering. It is worth it.

A. J. STANTON.

Property Goes to Children.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I am a widow with married sons and daughters. At my death my property goes to my children. In case married sons or daughters die before I do, who gets their share of the property—their husbands or wives or their children?

SUBSCRIBER.

Their children.

In Other Days

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, January 25, 1892.

New York.—The New York World says Mr. Cleveland has indicated he would withdraw from the Presidential contest. He is disgusted with the actions of the party leaders.

The La Grande Gazette, the Eugene Register, the Ashland Tidings, the Chehalis Bee, the Olympia Tribune, the Gervais Star and the Hoquiam Tribune and many other Northwest papers have commented on the new dress of The Oregonian, which now has a complete supply of new type and is installed in its new building.

In this town there is a bill collector who is a dandy. On his left side he carries a wooden sign which reads: "I am a bill collector. I collect bills that other men cannot collect." This man also has a cowbell. When he spots a man who does not pay his bills he takes station in front of the place where the man is. If the debtor does not come forth he rings the bell as an inducement. The result is the debtor invariably pays his bill.

The much-dreaded la grippe, or Russian influenza, seems to have struck Portland the past week. Among the doctors who were interviewed on the prevalence of the disease here are: Dr. W. H. Saylor, Dr. F. Cauthorn, Dr. C. H. Wheeler, Dr. J. W. Fraser and many others.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, January 25, 1867.

Sixty-two passenger trains arrive and depart daily from Chicago and 52 from Pittsburg. At the latter city 20,000 people daily come and go. Three thousand freight cars arrive and depart daily.

The New York World dodges the responsibility of advocating negro suffrage by pronouncing it a manifest destiny and declaring the South foolish for opposing it.

John Tanner and Miss Harriet G. Woodcock, of this city, were married January 24 at the residence of L. M. Parrish. Rev. C. C. Stratton officiated.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Carter were thrown out of their sleigh yesterday while riding downtown. Neither was seriously hurt.

WAR HAS EFFECT OF TARIFF

Half Truths Indulged in by Democratic Writers on Subject.

ILWACO, Wash., Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—While the campaign is over, still the Democrats are not losing any time in their endeavor to hold and build up Democratic strength. Recently the following deceptive half truth has appeared in their papers and it is deceiving many.

"Numbers of Republican papers are predicting unprecedented prosperity for the good old United States of America during 1917. It is hard to figure out how they reconcile these rosy forecasts, with the starvation and soup kitchen programme they presaged in the event of a victory for Wilson."

Now they know this is a deceptive half truth, advanced for political effect, to deceive the uninformed. As all informed persons know, Republicans have claimed that many of the evils of Democratic policies are held in abeyance by the conditions created by the European war. This war has automatically created for the "good old U. S. A." a Republican protective tariff, in the fact that many of our needs cannot be imported but must be produced here at home.

Thus the Republican policy of home production and employment and keeping the money at home has been forced by the war on the country, in many things.

We are not today in fact—thanks to the war—while we are by law, under the Democratic non-protective ruinous business policy of letting our own people be idle while we purchase our needs from abroad and send the money for the same out of the country.

Added to the Republican policy forced automatically on our country by the war, the war has also greatly increased the demand for the production of our factories, soil, mines and waters. So this war is bringing a great flood of gold to us for these things and that also means prosperity.

Neither side at war as yet is ready to stop. So, all in all, Republican papers are not wrong in predicting prosperity for 1917, as the evils of Wilson's policies are not in force now.

But, when the war is over and normal conditions again prevail, the unwise, unbusinesslike Democratic policies which brought about Buchanan's 1857, Cleveland's 1893, Wilson's 1914 starvation soup kitchens will again bring about the same results.

Is it wise to let these Democratic deceptive half-truths go unchallenged?

WALTER SEABERG.

ALL BUILDING MATERIAL HIGHER

Virtually All Classes Have Increased in Price in Recent Months.

PORTLAND, Jan. 22.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Please inform me whether building material is much higher, if any, than it was last year. (2) I wish you would also let me know if a foreigner coming to this country a good many years ago and accumulating quite a bit of property could vote. He has not got his first papers out. His wife also is a foreigner. Can she vote?

W. J. B.

(1) Virtually all classes of building material have increased in cost during the past half year, the high cost of materials and labor and the steady increase in building construction being the causes contributing. Building operations over the country in 1916 were about 25 per cent heavier than during the preceding year. Prices have risen during the past few months on lumber, brick, structural steel, steel bars, iron bars, rivets, cast iron pipe, cement, etc. The increase in each instance has been considerable.

(2) The amount of property accumulated by an alien has nothing to do with his right to vote. Not having taken steps to become a citizen, he cannot vote. Neither can his wife.

First White Child Born in Oregon.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(To the Editor.)—The statement that Mrs. Josephine Rader, who died on January 16, aged 68 years, is said to be the first white child born in Salem, is erroneous. If Mrs. Rader was 68 at the time of her death she was born in 1849—possibly late in 1848. There are three persons with whom I have a personal acquaintance who were born at the locality now known as Salem before 1848. Their names and addresses are as follows: Mrs. Maria Campbell Smith, born October 16, 1841, now living in Portland; George Phelps Holman, born February 6, 1842, now living in Salt Lake; Mr. Brewer, now living in Long Beach, Cal., born December 8, 1847. He was the son of Rev. Henry Bridgeman Brewer and his wife, Methodist missionaries, who arrived at Oregon City in June, 1840. A fourth person, now deceased, may be mentioned, who antedates the birth of Mrs. Rader—Mrs. Frances Aurelia Willson Gill, who was born in Salem July 23, 1847.

GEORGE H. HIMES.

Last Day of School Week.

Judge.

Teacher—This makes four times I've had to punish you this week, Bobbie. What have you to say to that? Bobbie—I'm glad it's Friday, teacher.