Morning Oregonian

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND PRIVATE RIGHTS.

Mr. Gompers has gone to extravagant lengths in his effort to make out a case against the anti-sedition bills passed by house and senate. There is on the one hand the perfectly clear purpose of these bills to restrain persons who preach or attempt overthrow of the American government by violence. But in several particulars Mr. Gompers adopts a strained construction, and brands the bills, as thus construed by him, as un-American and imperialistic.

In the strict meaning of the term, anything that is un-American is unconstitutional. Clearly it is not within the power of the congress to give an enactment of its own the unconstitutional scope that Mr. Gompers professes to discern in these bills, such, for illustration, as the penalizing of efforts to amend the constitution by the method prescribed in the constitution. Courts in constructing a law of course reject purposes that might be read into the law but which are clearly unconstitutional.

One may be justified in suspecting that Mr. Gompers has given his statement a tone calculated to alarm the general public. The apparent motive for his vehemence appears in the following sentence:

> It would be criminal, for example, for a man to send a letter advocating resistance to an injunction issued by a federal judge ordering workers on strike to go back to work.

Then Mr. Gompers maintains that the right exists to send such a letter and that the right ought not to be taken away. Presumably he has in mind the injunction against the coal miners' strike and the provisions of the Cummins bill against railroad strikes. The American people learned the effect of such strikes and knew their purpose when the coal miners attempted to enforce their demands by cutting off the supply of fuel as winter set in, and violated a contract in so doing. If successful, the strike would have caused many people to freeze, would have stopped the greater part of the industries and railroads and would have tied up coal-burning steamers. Mr. Gompers denied the right of the courts to enjoin that strike, and he now asserts the right to urge resistance to an injunction. He still maintains that the right of the miners to strike is superior to the right of the American people to live.

But we are in sympathy with Mr. Gompers' criticism of the power of arbitrary censorship over the press conferred upon the postmaster-general by the two bills. They would, it is true, give the publisher the right of a court review of the postmaster-general's order excluding a publication from the mails on the ground of seditious utterances, but they are in that particular a mild application of the old lynch law doctrine: "Hang him first and try him afterwards."

Opposition to the mailing provision was made far stronger than it would otherwise have been by the abuse of power which Postmaster-General Burleson committed under the espionage act. Senator Lodge summed up this part of the case against further enlargement of that official's authority by quoting an article which Theodore Roosevelt wrote for the Kansas City Star on May 7, 1918, in which the ex-president said:

> During the last year the administration has shown itself anxious to punish the newspapers which upheld the war but which told the truth about the administration's failure to conduct the war efficiently, whereas it has failed to proceed against various powerful newspapers which opposed the war or attacked our allies or directly or indirectly aided Germany against this country, as those papers upheld the administration and defended the inefficiency.

Mr. Roosevelt cited a number of examples, the most forcible of which was suppression of Tom Watson's paper for opposing dispatch of drafted men overseas, while no action was taken against the Hearst papers which expressed the same opinion.

The government needs the power to protect the public against its enemies, whether those enemies resist injunctions of the courts or advocate or attempt revolution by force. But in the instance of the man who is accused of advocating by word of mouth a revolution by force it is not proposed that any official shall have arbitrary power irrevocably to injure him prior to a formal and legal determination of his guilt. Yet he who is accused of advocating in print the same thing may be injured by the arbitrary act of a cabinet officer. It may be an injury that cannot be repaired by a later vindication in the courts.

The misconduct of Mr. Burleson is sufficient proof that freedom from abuse of a power thus sought to be conferred upon a political officer cannot safely be relied upon.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters' estimate of $390,000,000 as the fire loss of the United States in 1919, of which 87 per cent was avoidable, either wholly or in part, constitutes another indictment of the American people of the offense of criminal waste. Of all the great conflagrations that have occurred in the country, the only one that was not preventable is held to have been that at San Francisco, which was caused by earthquake which not only started it but destroyed the means of fighting it. The cost of the year's fires exceeded by some millions the total payroll of the teachers of the United States, who received only $364,789,000 for their services. The cost of fire departments was $400,000,000 more, a sum that has not been begrudged under existing conditions, but which would be greatly reduced if fire prevention measures were commoner. The public has a big task ahead of it to reduce fire loss to the 13 per cent of the present figure, which is held to be excusable.

HOW IT WON.

Secretary Daniels emphasized that, contrary to a popular impression, Admiral Sims throughout the war was subordinate to Admiral Mayo, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet. He indicated that on the question of the distribution of destroyer strength as well as on other questions, Admiral Sims was overruled by Admiral Mayo as well as the department.—From an Associated Press dispatch, Washington, D. C.

Thus it is clear that Secretary Daniels and Admiral Mayo won the war, without the loss of a swivel chair or an inch of red-tape.

THE DISSOLVED PARTNERSHIP.

Mr. House—who never was a colonel—is going back to Texas for a much-needed rest. He goes with the approval of the entire country, including President Wilson. Not the same unanimity of approbation has marked the other House activities during the past five years. No matter what any one else thought or said, he had the favor of President Wilson and thus by a majority of at least one was able to hold the extraordinary place he has acquired in the executive confidence.

The New York World, through its capable correspondent, Mr. Seibold, recently told the story of a breach between Mr. Wilson and his Warwick. It was denied from various more or less excited democratic sources; but now Mr. Seibold tells it anew; and it is widely accepted as true.

A guarded but significant confirmation of the Seibold narrative is given by Charles H. Grasty of the New York Times, in an article on President Wilson, in the January number of the Atlantic Monthly. Mr. Grasty says:

> Mr. Wilson's tendency to give his indorsement in blank has sometimes got him into trouble. No man should have been put into the position that Colonel House was. The country resented it, and finally the colonel himself used the president's writ too freely, with the result that unity of policy was somewhat impaired at Paris. Colonel House filled a deeply-felt need at the White House and from the president's point of view was most helpful. He was very active in the field in which the president had disabilities. He loved being a Warwick as much as the president hated the whole business of handling patronage. House was, as it were, a bureau drawer for things he did not exactly know where else to put. The Texan is orderly minded and has much sagacity, but he overestimated his reach. It was inevitable that this should be the result of the president's clothing him with too much power.

Mr. Grasty had close personal relationship—as close as anybody, always excepting House—with the president at Paris. He knows what he is writing about. It is to be regretted that he does not tell more.

The key to Mr. House's remarkable Damon-and-Pythias intimacy with the president may possibly be found in his own account of his first interview with Woodrow Wilson about 1912. "We agreed about everything," he says.

A POET, NOT A LINGUIST.

The disagreement between Maurice Maeterlinck, the master Belgian poet, and the business manager for his American lecture tour, Mr. Pond, over the former's failure to address his audiences in English is a reminder that the faculty of linguipotence, like the predilection for mathematics, is not invariably associated with mental capacity. One needs only to cast up in his mind the list of the many-tongued individuals he has known who are sub-normal in other intellectual respects to realize that it is so, and the reverse also is true, as has been shown by others than M. Maeterlinck. The latter's friend and companion, who also acts as his interpreter, cites the example of a capable French scholar now at Harvard who has been unable in three years to learn to ask for a piece of roast beef in English. M. Maeterlinck "understands" English when it is carefully spoken in his presence, but he struggles with its vocal pitfalls in vain.

A good many Americans will sympathize with him, and not a few Englishmen as well. Our insularity in a language sense is not altogether the result of inferior teaching methods, to which it is popularly ascribed. Centuries of living in countries such as those whose polyglot populations are now perplexing the self-determinationists, have bred in certain European peoples an aptitude for acquiring new tongues quickly. The Levant teems with men who speak and think in many languages, and so do the Balkan states. The Scandinavians probably lead all others in the north in possession of this gift, although there is a not fully supported notion that the Russian is the greatest linguist in the world, growing from the supposition that anyone who can master Russian ought to be equal to anything. In those who dwell apart from others, as we have done, the faculty appears to atrophy in time. M. Maeterlinck's failure to put himself in possession of our language in the few weeks he gave to the task may be due to another kind of isolation, none the less real—that of the poet, philosopher and dreamer from the affairs of the world.

There are nevertheless great numbers of Americans who will want to hear Maeterlinck, even though he speaks a language unfamiliar to most of them. There is a definite, human, romantic quality in a personality. There is interest that is above idle curiosity in seeing what manner of man it is who can not only do great things, but can do small things greatly. This Maeterlinck did when he humanized the bee in a work which, however the bee tenders and the naturalists may pick flaws in its minutiae, will live forever, and he did it again when he gave to readers in every land the kindly philosophy and the light that are contained in his dramatization of the unborn, "The Blue Bird." The revelations in those stories of bees and children make the world the debtor of the poet from across the sea.

It is something to see a man like Maeterlinck, and to hear him speak in any language. Yet the problem, from the point of view of the lecture manager, is a practical, financial one. The manager says that not enough people will buy tickets for a lecture in a foreign language to make it pay. He ought to have known beforehand, and it will be quite generally conceded that he counted on too much when he expected mastery of our highly complicated tongue in so short a period as seven weeks.

CHARITY IN POLITICS.

It is not necessary to resort to the old formality of adopting party platforms in Oregon to convince the political on-looker that the democratic party at the present moment "views with alarm." The sentiment has been convincingly expressed in relation to the bill just passed by the legislature which provides a method of voting the straight party ticket with a minimum of effort.

The alarm, of course, is all in behalf of the "independent" voter, not in behalf of any democratic aspirant for office. Heretofore the independent or any other voter was required to make a cross before the name of every candidate for whom he desired to vote. The new bill does not deprive the voter of that method of voting, but it compels the "independent" to jump from one column to another, instead of reading straight down the ticket, and as a special relief from this extraordinary effort it grants him the additional privilege of making one cross at the head of any ticket and escaping promptly from the polling booth.

The democratic alarm in behalf of the independent voter seems to be that he will be diverted from a feeble disposition to express a preference for candidates on several tickets by the ease with which he may vote for all the candidates on one ticket and thereby be seduced of an inalienable right to be independent.

Possibly the alarm is well justified. We are not so convinced, although we admit that the argument is plausible. If the "independent" is a fickle and indolent creature or has shallow preferences, perhaps these frailties of his ought to be humored and not thwarted. If robbed of his independence his choice is likely to fall on the republican ticket, as it usually presents the greatest number of names and is therefore the most attractive.

In a choice between charity for the feeble and enthusiasm for party we waver. And, in truth, it does not seem just right that charity should be exhibited exclusively by democrats. So if the bill shall fall under the veto we shall console ourselves with the thought that humane instincts have triumphed and that the Oregon system still lives.

FRANCE'S NEW PRESIDENT.

The termination of conditions which since 1871 have threatened the third French republic with an increasing menace of ultimate disintegration seems assured by the election of Paul Deschanel to the office of president by the national assembly at Versailles. By this election, in which the support of all factions was extraordinarily concentrated, the assembly has undoubtedly signified its aspiration for a new regime, with the reestablishment of national composure as its fundamental principle. Since the republic has passed safely through the terrible convulsions of war the existing political system has ceased to be the dogma of a single party and henceforth will probably take its place as a national creed.

The frequent anomalous situations which have blocked the perfect functioning of parliamentary government in France since 1871 were due to the presence in politics of numerous party sub-divisions from which the formation of responsible ministries could be accomplished only with grave difficulty. The principle disturbing factor has been the groups of irreconcilables who refuse to accept the concensus on which the governmental authority is founded, and who cannot be entrusted with power without danger to the fundamental institutions of the nation. One of these groups, the royalist, is a survival of the old regime and the reign of Louis Philippe.

The lack of large party groups of nation-wide development is partly the result of temperamental inclinations, for most Frenchmen are theoretical rather than practical in politics. There is little party discipline, for deputies in the chamber prefer to strive toward individual conceptions of an ideal society, refusing to relinquish a part of the ideal to obtain what is within reach. As a result there are no definitely organized party policies, and the platform of a candidate for the chamber is more a philosophical work than a definite programme of activities to which he might pledge himself.

Lines of political cleavage in France a few years ago were less in conformity with real issues than with personal sentiment. The Frenchman cares less for facts than for principles and opinions, and as an example of this preference, French newspapers are almost entirely devoted to editorial comment, with only the barest account of daily events. The formation of groups in the chamber, similarly, is often a union of sympathies based on comparatively irrelevant issues.

The emphatic choice of the assembly for Deschanel is important evidence that the old numerous party sub-divisions have been eradicated. The war was chiefly instrumental in obliterating many of the old loves and hatreds, and the issues of government are becoming much more conspicuous. The formation of a bloc national in the elections at the end of November was clear challenge to the radical-socialist element which was hitherto the only party with a concise programme, and in place of barren dynastic questions, a series of clearly formulated issues will undoubtedly rise in French politics. The creation of a coherent group for the realization of a definite reconstruction programme has already begun, and the establishment of a permanent national party along conservative lines may be its ultimate consequence.

The labors to be undertaken by the new chamber were indicated by M. Deschanel on the occasion of his election to its presidency on December 19, when he said:

> And now, my colleagues, a magnificent and arduous task is presented to us—the task of rebuilding France, of completing the arrangements for peace, and of organizing our victory. Our first duty is to re-establish our diplomacy, and then renew the economic and financial situation. Our foreign policy is important above all else—the army, finances, constitutional changes, and the social regime. It must be acknowledged that the French have never paid enough attention to outside matters . . . France, by the voice of the living, and the voice of the dead, calls for a foreign policy worthy of her sacrifices, and nowhere giving way on the guarantees necessary to her security and independence, her interests, rights, and secular traditions, and which shall keep her in intimate harmony with the other peoples who, by their struggle for justice are entitled to our affection and respect. . . . On the interior it is necessary to balance our budgets by fairly distributed taxation, and by just international combinations to organize production, raise our exchange, accelerate reconstruction in the liberated regions, rebuild our transportation system, renew the merchant marine, and put our colonial domination into shape.

The election of M. Deschanel as president of the republic is in itself a protitious beginning for these extensive undertakings, since his leadership is singularly unhampered by party associations. Although the premier must depend upon parliamentary majorities for support, the president, during his seven-year term, performs his functions through the party in power, and like the king of England, cannot act as a partizan. This aloofness seems to be a remarkable virtue of the new executive. According to Le Temps, the reserve shown by M. Deschanel in remaining outside of political parties has been less occasioned by afected self esteem than by a pure devotion to the cult of France and the vindication of its ideals. "It was a noble uneasiness of spirit that kept him from settling down in any party, and it seemed a defiance of conscience for him to abandon his moral independence. In his party associations he was less concerned with the credit and influence he could furnish than with the light he could shed upon grave social and political problems which, in our epoch, assail and torment the ardent minds of those who strive for progress and who place the general permanent welfare above private and ephemereal interests. . . . One is accustomed to seeing in him neither a radical, an opportunist, nor a progressive: He belongs to the party of France and of the republic."

SUSTAINING THE "Y."

The claim of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association to a continuance of popular support would seem to be fully sustained by the official statement, made in connection with its present campaign, that "measured by the number of members, classes conducted, students graduated, young men located in self-supporting positions and professions, and all the volume of over one hundred different lines of activities carried on by the association, the year 1919 is shown to be the largest in the history of the association." The point needs to be emphasized that this is an achievement of the first year "after the war," and that the association has thereby shown itself to be readily adaptable to the needs of the times. It is conceded that a steadying influence is one of the first requisites of successful reconstruction. As a measure of self-interest, the citizen who has a stake in his own community will be as liberal as he can afford to be in support of every movement that has thus demonstrated its capacity.

The "Christian character building vocational educational system" to which Mr. H. W. Stone alludes in a recent number of Association Men, the official magazine of the "Y" in America, as an integral part of the association's work, is one of the striking features of "Y" policy which commends itself to practical men. It is, moreover, in line with the growth of the educational motive throughout the country, and with the organization's determination to put its entire plant and equipment at the service of demobilized soldiers and sailors for educational purposes. Definite plans for further large and immediate expansion of this work were made at the association's recent convention at Detroit. The importance of the Portland association in the national scheme is made plain by the statement which shows that it stands, in membership, ninth in the list of ten largest associations in the United States, and at the head of the list of all those situated west of Chicago. It is second in point enrollment in its educational classes among all of the associations west of Chicago, with 1546 students. In the past ten years it has received 23,052 calls from employers and placed 18,008 young men in positions, of which 2823 calls from employers and 1472 placements occurred in 1919.

The appeal of the "Y" is strongly supported by statistics, but the latter do not do full justice to it. Influences which in the end contribute most to good citizenship, to good order and to creation of a community that is good to live in include a number of elements not so readily appraised. These will be taken into account by the observant. The standing of the "Y" as a definite and desirable community force is established. It would be difficult to estimate this in terms of dollars and cents. The association is well organized and aggressive, but the needs of the times call for continued extension, if it is to perform adequately the tasks that are being literally thrust upon it. We think that no thoughtful citizen would contemplate with equanimity the prospect of a city without an efficient "Y," but that all will turn a hospitable ear to its request for continuance of an adequate endowment. Its past record and its promise for the future undoubtedly merit generous support.

On the theory of "playing safe," the state senate killed the bill that would have reduced the price of gasoline 1½ cents per gallon in Oregon. "Playing safe" for whom? Certainly not for the car owners who have to pay the gasoline bills.

The government announces it will see that rent profiteers are hard hit by the income tax. Wonder if this announcement hasn't something to do with the February rental increase just made by apartment house owners.

The steamer Yarmouth, with a hurry-up cargo of whisky, gin and champagne aboard, is reported in dispatches to have left New York "with a heavy list to starboard." Liquor still has the same old effect.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson says he hopes England will be the next prohibition country. But probably he doesn't hope it too hard. "Pussyfoot" isn't the man to hope himself out of a job.

If Colonel House is at all revengeful, he has one consolation. After March, 1921, Mr. Wilson will be taking the same rest cure.

Seattle needs more time to complete her census. Must be that some herds of Arctic walrus have not yet been counted.

Whether Holland does or does not give up the kaiser will make little difference in his status of being in dutch.

This would be a pretty good time for Havana to take a census.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES

Parable of the Measly, Sore-Eyed Meachin' and Mangy Cat Related.

This modern parable, quite easy of interpretation, heads T. P. Adams' column, "The Conning Tower," in a recent number of the New York Tribune:

A peaked cat came along one day
An' picked our haouse es the place to stay.
They wa'n't no drivin' the thing away,
So we give it food an' a place to lay.

It was measly an' sore-eyed an' meachin' an' sad—
Mangy an' slinkin' an' thin ez a brad.
We give it the first home it ever had;
It grew fat an' furry, but begun actin' mad.

Araound the cellar that cat 'd sail,
With a humped-up back an' a swelled-up tail,
A-knockin' daown ev'ry pan an' pail
From hook er table er peg er nail.

Sometimes in thenight we'd hear a thump,
Er the coal in the bin slidin' lump on lump;
Er somethin' somewhere a-goin' bump
'D bring us up out o' bed with a jump.

On a good lace curtain the creeter 'd cling,
An' claw it into a mess o' string;
If it got in the pantry up it 'd spring,
Grabbin' meat er pertaters er anything.

We'd go callin' "Nice kitty!" an' "Come, kit, kit!"
No use—that there varmint 'd only spit.
So our patience was wore away, bit by bit,
Till we opened the door an' jes' told it to GIT!

An' as we consider the subjes' more,
By ginger, I'll tell ye what makes us sore:
With that policy o' the Open Door,
We might ha' got rid of it long before!

G. S. B.

* * *

An interesting myth has been woven about the 5 o'clock "tea." According to a Chinese legend, tea was discovered by a son of an Indian king, Darma, who in 519 A. D. paid a semi-religious visit to China.

To prove his religious fervor, Darma led an austere life, ate only vegetables and prayed constantly. He vowed never to sleep that he might devote all his time to prayer, but one day, after many years, he was overcome with drowsiness and, against his will, slept. On awakening he wept bitterly. To show his remorse he cut off his eyelids. The next morning he found the eyelids metamorphosed into two shrubs which ever since have been called "chaa," the Chinese for eyelids.

The moral of the legend points out that Darma chewed some of the shrub and learned its arousing properties. In 1559 the Chinese presented the "chaa" or "tea" leaves to the czar and later they were introduced into London.

* * *

History seems to be repeating itself in popular entertainment; at any rate, the plans of a new motion picture enterprise in Boston, which will cover three separate motion picture exhibitions under a single roof, recalls the growth of the circus from one ring to three.

The three motion picture performances, to be sure, may not all be visible at once, but the enterprise seems plausible enough based on the same economic situation. It furnishes in the same structure room for three audiences, which was the purpose of the three-ring circus, presenting practically the same kind of performance in each ring simultaneously, and thus providing for meeting a popular interest that had outgrown the one-ring tent. Like the three-ring circus, the three-screen motion picture theater may appeal to many people's admiration for bigness, even if the included theaters are out of sight of each other.—Christian Science Monitor.

* * *

"The present gigantic development of electric power in the west is a mere scratch on the surface of the most far-reaching possibilities," said Robert Sibley, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Electricity, at a luncheon in the Palace hotel, San Francisco, given to R. H. Ballard, president of the National Electric Light association by the San Francisco Electrical Development league.

Ballard, who is connected with the Edison company of southern California, Los Angeles, is on his way east to tell of prospects in the west among the leaders of the electrical industries on the Atlantic seaboard. The main purpose of the trip is to bring to a conclusion the preparations for the annual national convention of the association, which takes place in Pasadena May 18-22.

Sibley continued: "Only such a small matter as 8 per cent of the total possible electric power in the west has so far been utilized. The intensive use of electric power here is far greater than in the east, which is shown by the figures. The west has in comparison with the east a small population, and yet it produces 70 per cent, or 36,000,000 horsepower, of the total output of the United States.

* * *

Don't worry and be moderate in all things if you want to live to be 70 or more. This recipe for longevity is given by Dr. George D. Meylan, director of the Columbia university gymnasium, after an investigation of the modes of life of those who live long and those who die prematurely.

The characteristics of people over 70 years old, Dr. Meylan finds, are that they do not worry, have a happy disposition and eat, drink, exercise and enjoy themselves moderately.

"Exactly the opposite conditions," he says, "are found almost invariably in persons between 30 and 70 years who suffer from organic disorder of the nerves, digestive, excretory or circulatory systems and premature senility, but the vicious circle of unhygienic living usually includes overstimulation, worry, excess in pleasure, abuse of drugs and worry."

* * *

A house built of beer bottles was once an interesting feature of Tonopah, Nev. It was on account of the local scarcity of timber that a miner conceived the idea of building himself a dwelling from a huge stack of beer bottles. More than 10,000 bottles were incorporated in the dwelling.

Comfort On $150 a Month.

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—On the front page of The Oregonian of January 13, were you serious or was somebody trying to perpetrate a joke? "A Seattle couple live on $150 per month."

Perhaps in Seattle a very stingy couple might squeeze through on that wage; but please give this section credit for what can be done here.

I earn $150 a month, keep a family of five well fed and well clothed, own my own home, and automobile, with gas 26 cents a gallon. My children are getting good educations, both at school and in private music lessons, and while we are not spendthrifts, we are able to enjoy ourselves as much as we want or have any desire to. A. P. SNIDER.

Those Who Come and Go.

"Wrist watch." That was all the message contained that was signed for by Thomas B. Handley of Tillamook, at the Seward yesterday. It was a gentle reminder and Mr. Handley went out and bought a watch for his daughter, who had sent the telegram. Before leaving home for the legislature, Mr. Handley informed his daughter that he would bring her home a wrist watch if she wrote him a letter in his absence. Apparently the girl forgot until the last minute, and figured that she would have to act quickly on learning that the session had adjourned, so she used the wire.

Hotel men understand that a couple of agents are in Portland checking up on hotel orchestras, dance-hall orchestras and movie houses to discover whether music is being played on which no royalty has been paid. An association of composers in the east want a royalty when their selections are played. The hotelmen are awaiting developments, which are expected in the form of legal proceedings.

When H. L. Heckel collided with a telephone pole while riding a motorcycle, he was sent to a local hospital and later married his nurse. In those days, five years ago, Mr. Heckel was a Portland newspaper man. Now, the father of two children, he is selling X-ray equipment. Mr. Heckel, who is registered at the Hotel Portland, went out near the forestry building yesterday to examine the pole which was instrumental in making him a married man.

"We want to pave across our county, 50 miles," says Judge Phy of Union county, who is in the city on road matters. "The county has voted the necessary bonds. As yet the weather has not been favorable for the contractors to look over the projects, but we expect to have everything in readiness for awarding contracts early in the spring. By letting the work in sections, most of the paving may be finished this year."

When Colon Eberhard returns to his home in La Grande he hopes to be able to see his family. A month ago his children contracted scarlet fever and his home was quarantined. Fortunately for his constituents, Mr. Eberhard was not home when the quarantine was started, or he would not have been able to assume his duties in the special session of the legislature.

P. L. Campbell, president of the University of Oregon, has arrived at the Hotel Portland via Salem, where he was interested in having a millage act passed by the legislature. The university, under this measure, will receive in round numbers, about half a million dollars. The legislature also appropriated $50,000 to finish and furnish the women's building at the university.

General Pershing, while in Portland, promised Ralph E. Bancroft, a banker of Cascade, Mont., that he will send an autographed photograph to Mrs. Bancroft. There's a reason. When Mrs. Bancroft was a young girl she was a flower girl at Lieutenant Pershing's wedding. Mr. Bancroft is among those present at the Multnomah.

Having disposed of his duties as a legislator, and seen that his constitutional amendment to increase the indebtedness of the state for more road money will be referred to the people, James S. Stewart, has come to Portland to direct the campaign of Hiram Johnson for the popular vote in the presidential primary election.

"I didn't know anything about it until I received a message that I had been elected on the state fish and game commission, to represent the commercial fishing interests," explains Charles Hall, at the Benson. "It certainly was a surprise, especially as I'm not up much on the fish question."

The steam shovel broke down so John B. Doyle came in from Toledo to see about having it fixed. Mr. Doyle is doing road work for Lincoln county. There are several camps established and the work is being pushed along whenever the weather and the steamshovel permit. Mr. Doyle is registered at the Hotel Oregon.

A party of Japanese business men who are looking over commercial conditions on the Pacific coast are registered at the Benson. The party consists of R. Babu of Tokio; Nishibori, wife and son of Kyoto, and N. Ysanda of Kobe.

Matt Mosgrove is spending some good Canadian money in Portland. Mr. Mosgrove was for years a traveling man and then he became a merchant at Milton, Or. Of late he has been farming in Canada and had a pretty good crop last year.

George Kohlhagen of near Roseburg, is at the Hotel Oregon. He escorted a shipment of livestock to Portland yesterday and hurried over to the yards to sell the stock as soon as he assured himself that he could get a room.

"It's a boy," the doctor telephoned to Ray W. Clark of the Multnomah yesterday forenoon. Last night Mr. Clark was thinking of having his hand put in a sling, it was so crushed from receiving congratulations.

Walla Walla is a good wheat country and R. K. Bollemann is ready to attest this fact to the world. The wheat rancher came to the Hotel Oregon yesterday to look the town over.

There are nearly a score of school textbook salesmen at the Hotel Portland. The group is here awaiting a decision regarding changes in school books.

A. R. McAllister, a stockman of Wasco, is at the Perkins, having brought a shipment to town yesterday morning.

J. L. Calvert, who is one of the contractors working on the Pacific highway, is registered at the Benson from Grants Pass.

"I never introduced a bill in the special session," declared Representative A. A. Smith of Baker, at the Benson.

Mr. Taft's Private Secretary.

PORTLAND, Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Please print who was President Taft's private secretary. I claim Tumulty was and a friend says no. Which is right?

2. I also claim the south had three-fourths of the cantonments in the present war. Am I right?

LOYAL AMERICAN.

The best known of the several men who held the post of private secretary to President Taft was Charles D. Hilles. Mr. Tumulty was not engaged in that capacity during the Taft administration.

National guard camps and national army cantonments were located as follows: Four in Texas, three in Georgia, three in South Carolina, two in Alabama, two in California and one each in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Kansas, Louisiana and Washington.

DOES FEAR CAUSE DISEASE?

An Appeal to Suppress News About the Influenza.

PORTLAND, Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian the other morning contained a news item, with sufficiently large headlines, to the effect that the Spanish influenza (whatever that seems to be), has gotten as far west as Kansas City, and it naturally follows in human reasoning, that in time it will make another visit to Portland. The reception committee has been waiting anxiously in Portland for a reappearance of this disease for several months, and disappointment has been expressed that it has not yet arrived, also of ignorance of its delay.

After years of study and experience, I am of the firm opinion that disease is, in all cases, simply fear made manifest on the body. The fear may be latent or a universal belief bordering upon superstition, and if we are not awake to these suggestions, like Job, the thing which we greatly feared will come upon us. A man "certainly walks in the direction in which he looks."

So would it not be a good idea to minimize fear in the direction of influenza this year, by refusing to feature the experience of other communities? A little thought on the subject will show most conclusively that the publishing of accounts of any epidemic in the press creates a fear of the disease, which causes that very disease to appear. All causation is mental, and sooner or later we will find that if we do not want to commit murder of mind or body we will at once dismiss the suggestion instead of debating it. "He who hesitates is lost." I am sure you can do a great good to humanity by trying this plan. Will you do it?

B. S. JOSSELYN.

The Oregonian has a conception of its duty as a public journal which will not permit it to suppress the news of any epidemic, here or elsewhere. It may be true that fear of mind makes the body susceptible to disease, we do not deny it; neither do we affirm it. But fear, or apprehension, based on knowledge, leads to preparedness; ignorance invites disaster to mind and body. If we must accept an alternative between fear and ignorance we shall choose fear. Then we shall set out to abolish fear through knowledge and through faith.

ABSENCE OF LOVE IS DETECTED

Correspondent Accused of Applying Own Grievance to Religious Body.

PORTLAND, Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—It is regrettable that any one should consider it necessary to go into print to misrepresent doctrines with which he does not agree, but which are cherished by large numbers of his fellow citizens. The abuse of a religion, or its followers, never turned a thoughtful man away from it, and no one who is ready to consider the merits of Christian Science is likely to consider unkind insinuations about its teaching or its adherents as a sufficient substitute for intelligent information.

The teaching of Christian Science is simply that of pure Christianity. It does not teach negation of anything, nor end with the denial of anything that possesses the nature of substance, and it defines substance as that which is real in distinction to that which is apparent. Its followers are taught to live clean and wholesome lives, to love their neighbors as themselves, and to do as they would be done by, and all sincere students of Christian Science are striving to put these precepts into practice.

If the critic of Christian Science was truly sincere in referring to the tenets of the church as allowing for the law-abiding observance of quarantine regulations (which they certainly do), and if he is sincere in saying it is not his purpose to assert that all Scientists would not disregard the health laws by sending their children to school while broken out with an eruption, then it would have been more loving for him to have refrained from palpably perverting a statement from "Science and Health" by Mrs Eddy and from casting aspersions on Christian Science churches, teachers and children. In other words, if one has a grievance against an individual, it would be the more loving thing to confine that grievance with the individual than to attack his religion and all of its adherents.

A. O. FREEL.

GALLOWS FROM DARK AGES

Use Now Likened to Resort to Wooden Plow and Reap Hook.

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Away back in olden times when the farmers were satisfied with the wooden plow and reap hook some one thought of the gallows as a deterrent of crime. The world has tried this instrument of death for thousands of years and it goes without saying that the results have been far from satisfactory.

In our present age of enlightenment it would seem proper that we view the gallows in the same light that we would the old wooden plow and the reap hook. Evidently they were the best that brains could produce at that time, but not so now. What would we think of a farmer that would undertake to preach that the methods of agriculture employed a thousand years ago were just as good and up to date as is our present-day methods? We would think he was either insane or a fool.

As far as farm implements and tilling of the soil are concerned, we have kept pace with the times, but not so in our dealings with criminals. We have overlooked the source and causes of crime and persisted in our old-time methods of dealing with the finished product only. There are causes for crime, and unless these causes are removed the same causes will continue to produce an endless chain of criminals just as they have done in the past.

What we need most is an army of persistent workers at the source of crime as well as at the head, and until this is done there is not the slightest hope of any change for the better. The gallows and prisons will never cure criminals. They only remove them for the time being, until a new crop comes on and fills their places. J. D. WINN.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP.

I don't give a darn for riches,
Nor to play in Society's game;
To the dickens with popularity
And the careless crowd's acclaim.
I don't care a snap for luxury,
I can scoff and sneer at fame;
But, so help me Pete, I'd sell my soul
For a friend who is worthy the name.

Who, knowing your faults, doesn't blame you,
But loves you more deeply instead;
Who knows you are sorry, and, smiling, forgives
The things that you shouldn't have said.
One who appreciates silent moods,
Or is gay when you want to raise Ned,
And can still admire and respect you
When you've got a cold in your head.

Jan. 13, 1920. —RUSSELL SHAVER.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE HENS AND THE JAZZ.

A scientist asserts that by lighting
chicken coops at night and playing
music to the hens a far higher rate of
egg production can be secured.—News
Item.

On learning that hens never slumbered
As long as it seemed to be light,
We lighted our coops—and the chickens—poor dupes
Sat up and laid eggs every night.
But just as we found we were getting
The number of eggs we desired,
Being long without sleep, with a piteous peep
They turned up their toes and expired.

Undaunted by one little failure
(Such failure as every one has)
We cheered up again when we heard that the hen
Is frightfully fond of the jazz.
"If hens are enlivened by music
They will jazz round the chicken coop floor,"
(So the author we read in his article said)
"And lay twice as fast as before."

We therefore put in a piano
And, greatly delighted, we found
When we started to play in our rather crude way
That the hens began dancing around.
They swarmed from the yard by the hundred.
They crowded the windows and doors,
They danced till they dropped, but whenever we stopped
They would flap with their wings for encores.

And now (though afar in the distance)
Whenever a phonograph plays,
Or a street organ groans in lugubrious tones
Our hens thread the jazzian maze
And never an egg do they furnish
The fowls simply can't spare the time.
And hens are no use if they cannot produce
But their jazzing is really sublime!

* * *

Nation's Debt Would Soon Be Paid.

Too bad that people aren't as crazy to see the fight on the league of nations as they are to see the Dempsey-Carpentier scrap.

* * *

No Lack of Accidents.

It never seems to be necessary to hang a "Help Wanted" sign on the White House.

* * *

The Quickest Way.

The next time we have a war with Germany we'll leave a couple of hundred barrels of wood alcohol around where they can capture it.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, January 20, 1895.

Brooklyn.—Militiamen today found it necessary to charge a mob gathering in support of the striking surface car men with fixed bayonets.

Astoria.—The British bark Glendinorvig arrived yesterday after a stormy voyage of 112 days from Rio Janeiro. Food ran short and the crew subsisted for two weeks on bread and coffee.

Fire at Halsey day before yesterday destroyed several store buildings and stocks of merchandise with a loss of more than $20,000.

A franchise has been granted for a telephone system at McMinnville.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, January 20, 1870.

New York.—The relief fund for the family of the late Secretary Stanton totals about $86,000, subscribed in Boston, Philadelphia and New York.

Paris.—The funeral of Victor Noire, shot by Prince Bonaparte, brought a public demonstration in which 100,000 people took part, but without any violent outbreak.

Paris — General Garibaldi passed through Paris today on his way to London.

January 6 Boise, Idaho, was visited by a fire that destroyed the capital block. Damage was estimated at more than $75,000.

SENATE JEALOUS OF PRESIDENT

**Political Aff