Morning Oregonian

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THE SUFFRAGE OUTLOOK.

Stranger things have happened than the Delaware senate's reversal of its vote on the equal suffrage amendment, and it will not be surprising, either, if the lower house finds a way similarly to befriend the measure which it also spurned only a few weeks ago. It is evident that the suffrage leaders have learned something of practical politics since the campaign began; their wits have been sharpened by exigency, as the result in the Deleware senate shows, and they can be reasonably relied on to move circumspectly until victory is assured. Meanwhile, it is to be observed that they are casting a prudent anchor to windward in Connecticut, where Governor Holcomb is besought to call an extra session, both to insure against possible defeat in Delaware and to forestall legal action in Ohio. As to the latter state, there is pending a technical attack on the right of the legislature to ratify a federal amendment, it being contended that the measure must be submitted to the popular vote. Obviously, if this issue should be decided adversely to the cause, both Delaware and Connecticut would be needed.

It is perilous to venture to predict what a court will decide, but it is not easy to believe that the obstacle interposed by the attorney-general of Massachusetts will prove permanent. This official has held that adoption of the federal amendment by the states does not in itself confer the right of suffrage, but there must be affirmative legislation to give it effect. Either there must be amendment of state constitutions which are in direct conflict with the federal amendment, he holds, or congress must pass an act specifically conferring the right to vote on women. It will seem to the layman that there is ultra-legal hair-splitting in the contention that the "amendment does not confer upon women the right to vote, but only the right not to be discriminated against because of their sex." He concedes that any state constitution which affirmatively denied the right of suffrage to women "would be unconstitutional" when the federal amendment is ratified, "but a state constitution which confers the vote upon men but fails to confer it upon women does not deny the vote to women within the meaning of the proposed amendment." A curious situation would be presented if the Massachusetts view should prevail. It would be this: that states (if there are any such) which affirmatively declare in their constitutions that women shall not vote will be compelled to grant the ballot, on the theory that those constitutions are unconstitutional, while those which merely omit specific provision for the ballot by women would be entirely competent by omission to exclude women from the polls. Of course, the states which have heretofore granted the ballot to women would not be required to await further action either by congress or the states; even should the Massachusetts idea prevail, this ray of light will penetrate the gloom.

Can a prohibitory amendment to the constitution be set at naught by an unfriendly congress merely by the latter's inaction? It is true that it may require supporting legislation to make its administrative features fully effective. This is true, for example, of the liquor prohibition amendment. But the amendment itself probably has the power of executing itself. Judge Cooley says that "a prohibition of a power in the federal constitution defeats any attempt at its exercise, and any court, state or federal, that may have cognizance of a case in which the power can come into controversy must take notice and act upon the prohibition." Now, it will seem (to the layman, anyway) that if Massachusetts should attempt to exclude women from the polls after the nineteenth amendment has been ratified, it would be trying to exercise a power which it is forbidden to exercise. The fifteenth amendment presents a peculiarly forceful analogy because the fifteenth was drawn in the light of the experience which it had given us. The fifteenth amendment provides:

> The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

The language of the pending suffrage amendment is:

> The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

The ensuing section in each article gives congress power to enforce the article "by appropriate legislation." "It is unquestionable," says the authority heretofore quoted, referring to the fifteenth amendment, "that the amendment is self-executing to this extent, that all laws and provisions of state constitutions which conflict with it were at once anulled. Congressional legislation could only be needed to prevent the impartial rule of the constitution being nullified by failure of officers to give effect to it." It would seem that the amendment itself does the very thing which the Massachusetts attorney-general denies that it does—that in and by itself it prohibits nullification by inaction. But it will not appear that we need to wait for congress to enact a criminal penalty clause, since the remedy exists in the suggestion of Judge Cooley that "any court, state or federal . . . must take notice of and act upon the prohibition."

It is of academic interest only that there still stands in the constitution of the state of Oregon the provision (Article 2, Section 6): "No negro, Chinaman or mulatto shall have the right of suffrage." The curious obstinacy with which the people have retained this section has not served to nullify the fifteenth federal amendment. We presume that, under the Massachusetts ruling, this would have been held unconstitutional and void, while on the other hand, if there had existed instead only a provision that "white men" were qualified to vote it would have required affirmative legislation to remove the bar sought to be removed by the federal amendment. In other terms, the way to prohibit is to be careful not to prohibit. We do not suppose, without having examined all of the state constitutions, that any state forbids woman suffrage with the precision of the Oregon prohibition of negro suffrage. It would be all the better for women if they had done so, should the Massachusetts theory prevail.

We cling to the notion that the states which do not permit women to vote are denying them the right to vote. This denial the proposed nineteenth amendment expressly forbids. If the Delaware house can be persuaded to act favorably, and nothing adverse comes to pass through the Ohio litigation, it is a long-shot wager that suffrage for women will be the law of the land without waiting for either congress or the states to take further action.

CENSUS PHILOSOPHY.

"What difference does the census make?" philosophically inquires the Aberdeen World. "Not very much, perhaps. It chiefly affects the city's pride."

The occasion of the World's easing remarks was the announcement of the census figures for Aberdeen. The result was 15,337. The directory, school census, bank deposit, postoffice and other qualified experts are able to make a satisfactory showing that the real total is at least 17,000, but somehow the unfeeling government of the United States refuses to be convinced.

But what of it? Take the case of Spokane. The census return, just announced, is for 104,204, or 196 less than in 1910. Now hear Spokane howl. You can be comparatively calm when your town has shown a material gain in a decade, but an actual loss is a jolt. Of course the census is wrong. Spokane will set about to prove it, and may succeed. We hope it will. Indeed, we believe it.

We wonder how Portland, which is looking for 300,000 or more—ask any Portland booster—will feel when and if it shall turn out that the census gives about 275,000. No, this is not a tip.

FOR A FAIR UNDERSTANDING.

The Oregonian is not devoting much editorial space to the federal probe of the shipbuilding industry in Portland, a strange contrast to the interest it has taken in all investigations of government activities during the war. More than this, its news stories are colored to make things look as favorable as possible for the defendants in their fight to keep their books and records out of the hands of the federal grand jury, although this action on their part is tantamount to an admission of guilt in the eyes of the public. The ships were being constructed during the emergency of war on the cost plus plan in order that work might be rushed and the builders protected against possible loss, and naturally the government, which was paying the bills and a stipulated profit above the cost, should have a right to see the books.—Portland Guard.

The Oregonian has an old-fashioned idea that a newspaper may not with propriety—certainly not with impunity—discuss the merits of any cause in process of actual hearing by a court. This may not be understood at Eugene, but here there is an appreciation both of the rightful privileges of a newspaper and of the proper dignity of the judiciary.

It may be appropriate, however, now that the immediate hearing is concluded, to say that the issues, when finally determined, will define the powers of the federal government and the rights of a citizen or a corporation in a most important matter. The government, making charges of fraud, demanded the custody, for the uses of the grand jury, and doubtless of the United States agents, of all the books of two shipbuilding concerns in transactions covering construction of sixty-two vessels. The companies resisted on the ground that they could not carry on their business without their books, making the point that a subpoena duces tecum for the books was in fact a search warrant, and that no search warrant could issue without specific charges of wrong-doing. They offered to permit the United States attorney to examine the books on the ground without interference, or the special agents to have the same privilege if the companies might have present their own representatives during the examination. The court ruled that the grand jury was within its powers in demanding all the books. The offers of the companies were rejected. The case is on appeal.

The percentage of truth in the Guard's little article is fairly illustrated by its statement about cost plus. Two of the ships, built by one of the companies, were constructed on cost plus. Building of four others was begun on cost plus, but they were finished on lump-sum contracts. All the others—some fifty-six—were built on lump-sum contracts, not cost plus.

The conduct of the companies may or may not be reprehensible, and they may or may not by their course have made an admission of guilt in the eyes of the public. But they are entitled to a fair statement and a fair public understanding of their case.

An echo of the late lamented overalls campaign is heard in the announcement of President La Guardia of the New York board of aldermen that he intends to wear his olive drab service shirts to work until they are worn out, or until the laundries find it in their hearts to launder white collars at a good deal less than the present prevailing price. The idea embodies the best that there was in the overalls movement, minus the objectional feature that wearing any particular style of garment had the inevitable effect of increasing the price of that garment, without benefit to anyone except the garment dealers. Mr. La Guardia happens to be fortunate in the possession of certain relics of his service overseas which add distinction to the wearer; but it may yet come to the point where the wearing of last year's clothes, service or civilian, will be regarded as a badge of character. It will show, at least, that the principles of thrift are beginning to prevail again, and that there is sound thought, rather than mere emotionalism, in the effort to cut down the high cost of living.

THE STRAW VOTE.

It is noticeable as regards straw votes that no matter how painstaking their fairness or how complete they may be they are indicative, as a rule, only of general results. As to plurality figures they are not borne out in the election.

The poll undertaken by the Literary Digest is doubtless the most comprehensive ever attempted prior to an election. There can be no doubt as to its fairness. The compilation in the issue of May 8, prepared in advance of last week's primaries, indicated with accuracy the republican choice for president in Ohio, Indiana and California as it was expressed later at the polls by the voters. But the total vote to be accorded each leading candidate was not truly forecast.

In California the Digest's poll recorded more than 41,000 straw votes. Therein Johnson had a lead over Hoover of 2106. The Digest's poll named eight candidates, whereas there were but two, Johnson and Hoover, on the primary ticket. In the poll Johnson and Hoover got all but about 6000 of the straw votes. If it be assumed that these 6000 voters and others of similar mind split evenly between Johnson and Hoover in the real election Johnson would have had a majority over Hoover of about 28,000 in the 568,000 votes cast in the primaries and so far tabulated, had the Digest's poll been borne out. But Johnson's actual lead in that number of votes is 159,273. If it be assumed that every one who voted in the Digest's poll for Wood, Lowden, Harding and others voted for Johnson in the primaries, Johnson's majority over Hoover would still be only 116,000 instead of 159,000, were the poll a true index.

Likewise the Digest's poll indicated that Ohio would give Harding a plurality of but little more than 4000, whereas his plurality according to official count after the primaries was 14,692. In Indiana, according to the Digest's poll, Wood's plurality should have been about 32,000, whereas it was 5947.

Probably in the failure of a poll accurately to forecast election figures are involved indifference and interest of respective classes of voters, failure of mail to reach voters who do not remain long in one place, and also impracticability of confining republican and democratic polls conducted at long distance to voters of those faiths.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

Opposition to compulsory military training is a remarkable case of misrepresentation or blunt denial of facts and of blindness to the teachings of experience. Those are the plain implications of Senator Wadsworth's speech in favor of that policy and of its rejection by the senate.

Pacifists say that we are a peaceful people, have few wars and therefore do not need to train our citizens. In fact two-thirds of all government expenditures from 1789 to 1920 have been for war and in paying bills left over from war.

Victory over Germany under the draft law is by some regarded as evidence that we do not need compulsory training in peace time. When war with Germany was declared, the regular army consisted of 120,000 men. It was rapidly increased by volunteers, but the first division did not sail for France until two months later, and it consisted of 50 per cent of green, raw recruits. On reaching France it had to go into training.

It is assumed that there is plenty of time to organize a citizen army after war is declared. The national guard was not sent to concentration camps until five months, and the first drafted men did not go to cantonments until six months after war was declared. In the five months from August 1, 1914, the Germans conquered Belgium, advanced to the Marne, were driven back and were prevented from reaching the channel ports only by the almost superhuman efforts of the allies. In the same period the Russians won two Austrian provinces and crossed the Carpathians, advanced into East Prussia and were driven out. Those facts suggest what might happen in five months if the United States alone were to make war on a well prepared nation with no trained citizen army.

The only safe alternative to trained citizenship is a large regular army. The war department proposed such an army of 576,000 men, which would have cost $800,000,000 a year. It would not have been large enough for defense and its cost would have been prohibitive.

In all our wars we have relied on citizen soldiers, but because they lacked previous training wars were prolonged and that with Spain was marked by great loss of life through sickness due to ignorance, a result of unpreparedness.

Compulsory training is called militarism by its opponents, but militarism is a state of mind cultivated by despotic rulers and created by continuous service for two or three years, which is apt to convert a man from a citizen into a professional soldier with a soldier's reliance on force.

The war department's bill proposed three months' training for citizens in addition to a large regular army, but it also provided that the trained citizen should be drafted into the regular army, where he would be dominated by the professional. Such an army could have dominated the country. Danger lies in a large professional army, not in citizens trained for a few months, then sent back to civil life.

The senate bill would have avoided this danger by keeping the trained citizens distinct as a citizen reserve, behind the national guard, which would be the first citizen reserve. Both would become parts of the United States army in war, but they would not be absorbed into the regular army, as they were in the wars with Spain and Germany.

After training, each young man would return to his own locality, where he would be assigned to a reserve unit at his home, commanded by reserve officers drawn from among his neighbors, which could be called to serve only in a great war. If such a war came, he would probably have to serve, trained or not.

Pacifists have estimated the cost of compulsory training alone as high as $1,314,000,000. The finance department of the army estimates that after six years, when the system would be in full operation, the cost of training would be $135,000,000 a year and that of all military forces—regular army, national guard and training camps combined—would be $654,000,000, or much less than that of the big regular army proposed by the war department.

The plan for compulsory training is postponed, but not finally rejected. It will not down, for events are morally sure to call renewed attention to its necessity. Reason is bound to overcome prejudice and misrepresentation, backed up, as it will be, by danger until the league of nations becomes the dominant moral force, supported by the physical force of the world.

ONE PASSENGER DEPOT.

Meeting in Portland of the chief executive officers of the five railroads entering the city to consider plans for operation of all passenger trains from one depot is an earnest that that long deferred hope is at last to be realized. Scattering of passenger trains among several depots, which caused transfers by street car or taxi with extra expense and loss of time of the traveling public, has long been conceded to be uneconomical and inconvenient for both the roads and the public. Experience with a common terminal under government operation has doubtless so impressed this fact on the minds of the presidents that they are determined to get together and to overcome the obstacles which have hitherto stood in the way of agreement.

If any doubt remained as to establishment of a union depot in fact as well as name in the near future, it would be removed by the provisions of the Cummins-Esch law. The Interstate Commerce commission is given authority to require "joint or common use of terminals" on terms agreed between the carriers or, if they fail to agree, on such terms as the commission finds just and reasonable. That provision gives the more incentive to the railroads to agree voluntarily and assures the city of one passenger depot in any event.

There should be small difficulty about consolidation. The present union depot is used by all through trains except those running over the North Bank road. The depot ground of the latter road closely adjoins that of the terminal company and could be annexed. The present Union depot building has already become too small for the city's traffic and will probably prove to be badly located with regard to the enlarged area available for tracks, and a new, far larger one will naturally follow consolidation.

Consolidation of passenger terminals will fit in well with the plan for new freight terminals which forms part of the Swan island project. The latter will make the present freight yards available for expansion of the passenger yards, which increased traffic will demand by the time that project is completed. By co-operation and joint use of facilities the roads would then have scope for the city's growth during many years.

That Missouri girl, sixteen, who killed her stepfather for alleged reasons that would have justified discharge if proved, was found guilty on her second trial. About four years ago she killed her father when he was abusing her mother. There is no doubt she is handy with a gun and this may have been the jury's view of the case.

Heart-balm quotations are rising in Seattle, at least, where a husband wants $50,000 from the skipper of a tugboat. At that rate the captain of a liner would be good for $100,000. Diversion, real or alleged, is costly these days.

If sugar is going to 40 cents—and there's not much to hinder it going higher—because of prohibition and consequent consumption of candy, there will be something doing in spite of "booze-hound" activities.

The movement to foster the building of shacks should be encouraged. Many a fine dwelling began that way. The owners will not always live that way—depend upon the pride of the womenfolk.

Ptomaine sufferers can get ready relief by taking castor oil at once—"a bottle's the dose"—but it's "horrible" stuff and recalls the days "when a feller had no friend at home."

Lloyd George and the English people are laughing at the request of the eighty-eight congressmen who offered the latest interference in the conduct of Ireland, and why not?

That Roman chemist who has a liquid to make a car go 250 miles on a gallon belongs in this country, where there is room for a ten-gallon spin—not in Italy.

Putting up a big circus tent is supposed to be the acme of human machine work until one sees a big railroad replace a burned-out bridge. That's efficiency.

Labor's political nonpartisan managers can be congratulated on knocking out Joe Bailey of Texas, who would go to the convention.

The Mayflower is being fitted for the presidential summer cruise, but it will be considered confining after the George Washington.

Fining and jailing do not seem to stop all the speeding, but the money is needed by the city and the law is on the book anyway.

One Delaware house has ratified suffrage, but the rest of the pinhole state is doubtful.

A French woman of quality wearing an American-made hat! Revolution would follow.

Great baseball weather, but the Beavers are doing better away from home.

Carranza "lasted" very well.

Soft-drink weather, too. Bah!

SNUFFED OUT, JUST LIKE THAT

No Such City as Portland in Oregon Says Postoffice Department.

(Harvey's Weekly.)

Mr. Burleson has canceled Portland. There isn't any Portland, Oregon, any more. Like Sioux City, the largest municipality in South Dakota, and a number of other bustling centers of population in various parts of the country to which the postmaster-general objected, Portland has gone—sunk without trace. The following letter, which came to us accompanied with the envelope bearing the official record of the postoffice department's decision that there is no such place as Portland, tells the sad story:

Sir—On the subject of our postal service:

Enclosed please note envelope, bearing address as follows:

A. H. Tanner, Esq.,
311 Spalding Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

It was mailed to the above address on January 15, 1919, and returned after 18 days, marked: "No such postoffice in state named."

Thinking that the mail service might have discovered the existence of some municipal dotlet named "Portland," the letter was remailed with the same address, plainly typewritten, and after 15 days was again returned, marked as follows: "No such postoffice in state named."

Inasmuch as the letter concerned important litigation in Oregon, it was mailed the third time, and accompanied by a telegram. The second envelope was sent to Mr. Tanner, simply to advise him of the fact that there was no such town as the one he lived in. Strange to say, the third attempt was successful.

I address this communication to the city of New York, state of New York, and should there be such a town known to Mr. Burleson, you may receive it. S. D. CRUMP, Denver, Colo.

It is really too bad about Portland. The whole country will mourn its loss. It was such a beautiful, flourishing city—one of the handsomest of the brilliant string of civic jewels that adorn our Pacific coast. It was listed as number 28 of the 100 largest cities in the United States. It was credited with a population of 207,214 in the census of 1910. We have not seen the figures of its population under the 1920 census, but in 1919 its estimated population was 350,000. And now it is no more. Where it once stood is now empty—a civic vacuum.

How soon will New York's turn come? Our correspondent, as he states, addressed his letter to us as of the city of New York, state of New York. And it miraculously reached its destination. So, up to that time at least Mr. Burleson was still permitting New York, both state and city, to live. But how much longer are New Yorkers to be thus indulged? Who can tell? Nobody can tell. In an age of mail-delivery miracles, almost anything may happen; and it generally does.

PLATFORM CONVENTION FAVORED

Judge Lowell Would Have It Called After Primary Is Over.

PENDLETON, May 7.—(To the Editor.—Permit me to commend The Oregonian's leading editorial Sunday entitled "Every One His Own Platform." The writer has been an advocate of party conventions from the inception of the direct primary in Oregon. The assembly of ten years ago was a blunder because it sought to restore the discredited system which the direct primary supplanted. Had its sponsors been satisfied to hold a party convention for conference and for the adoption of a platform, it is probable that there would have been substantially no opposition either then or now.

As one who had some share in the adoption of the present nominating system, and who condemned the assembly venture, I feel that my opinions may not be very far divergent from the mass of the republicans of the state when I say that it is my judgment that the chairman of the state committee will be justified in calling a convention of the party soon after the primaries have been held, to the end that an organization may be affected, a declaration of principles promulgated and the party marshalled for a November victory. I am not favorable to any convention until after the people have made the nominations.

There are faults in the primary scheme, but they are of slight moment beside the corruption and bossism which were concomitants of the caucus and convention of 20 years ago. To those of us who were in the political game in those days the frequently heard charge that all candidates are now self-seekers seems childish. When, pray, did the party ever seek its candidates? Under the old system no man could be nominated without bowing the knee to a boss, or without promising in advance political favors without stint. Self-seeking was the rule, and there were no exceptions.

The people will jealously guard their prerogative of making nominations, and properly so. The convention as it once existed will never return, but following the nominations, a party convention is needed to complete and perfect the work of the electorate.

STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

NEW ARMY CONTRACTS AMAZE

Writer Reasons That Favored Interests Are Grafting Off People.

PORTLAND, May 7.—(To the Editor.)—It has occurred to me that the only way to correct an evil is to expose its faults, and I am like a great many people—I did what I could in a small way to help our government out in a financial way, by investing in liberty bonds. Now, I am still like a great many people, simply disgusted with the way our government is being conducted.

I have found my bonds discounted, my cost of living soaring out of sight, and then find favored manufacturers who are grafting on the government declaring outrageous dividends out of the excess profits taken from the consumer. Is there no way to remedy existing conditions?

I note in the "Shoe Retailer" of April 24 the names of manufacturers who have just been awarded contracts for 500,000 pairs of shoes for the army, (over $3,000,000) ranging in price from $6.66 to $6.8275 per pair. Other trade journals make notices of other such contracts. I understand from those who know about the matter that the government already has on hand shoes enough to supply our army for the next ten years without any further purchases. This is proven by the fact that the army stores have been selling shoes at a price claimed to be below cost.

Cannot some publicity be given to these matters so that our lawmakers will make some effort to give us an honest deal? As it stands now, no sane man would invest in a government bond, knowing the money is going to be wasted in pleasure trips to Honolulu or grafted by favored trusts.

I think it would be a good plan to have some of these candidates who seek re-election to explain why they voted to waste the money.

J. C. SIMPSON.

Children Play at "House."

Exchange.

"Let's play house," suggested 5-year-old Alice to her twin brother, Ned. "All right," he agreed, "you get the broom and be the mother, and I'll get the newspaper and be the father."

Those Who Come and Go.

George Harris just can't keep away from the orient. Mr. Harris, who lives at the Imperial when he is in the United States, left yesterday for India and Java. Mr. Harris has heard the temple bells of India so many times that they are familiar to him as an alarm clock, and as for Java, he is as much at home there as a Dutchman. In the years which he has been traveling throughout India, Japan, China, Java, the Straits, Siberia, Russia, and the rest of the lands over there, Mr. Harris has managed to maintain his health and pep. "The main secret is to be careful of what you eat. If you must have vegetables," says he, "be certain that they have been thoroughly cooked. And be certain, if you drink any of the local water, that it has been thoroughly boiled. The casual traveler who overlooks these important matters will soon suffer the consequences of his rashness and ignorance." Mr. Harris returned to Portland only a few weeks ago and hardly had time to shake hands with his friends before he was ordered off again. This time he will be absent about a year.

"Prohibition is depopulating Calumet, Mich.," declares Captain Thomas Hoatson of that city, and his statement is confirmed by Mose Banditini, a merchant, both of whom are at the Hotel Portland. "The foreigners in and around Calumet are going back to the old country, and their reason is simply that they cannot have their wine, as well as their bread, in America." Captain Hoatson is president of the Calumet & Arizona Mining company, and is worth a few millions. Mr. Banditini is secretary and treasurer of the company, and the mine is near Bisbee, Ariz. Last year they came to Portland and devoted a week to fishing around Tillamook and had such a good time that they are out here again. On the former trip they had Al Pierce, manager of the Seward, as guide, philosopher and friend, and today they are journeying to Salem to greet Mr. Pierce, who is now managing the Marion. The mining men have winter homes in southern California, but their summers they spend in good old Calumet.

His name is Patrick James O'Connell and he comes from Butte where he owns a comfortable supply of stocks and bonds in the Silver Bow mines which produce a nice income when the "wobs" are working between strikes. He checked in at the Multnomah yesterday morning and checked out again last night. "Portland's a nice little city, all right," said he, "but it's Victoria for mine." And the Montana mining man displayed an Edwards button, which was pinned to his left gray vest, next to his heart. "You see, I've just returned from Havana, where a corkscrew is still a good kitchen utensil. I struck it back for this part of the country for a month, but with the warm weather coming on again, I decided to travel northward and Victoria, from all accounts, is a refreshing oasis when a man's dry." So saying, he slipped the porter a piece of "jake," a couple of suitcases and departed for the northbound train.

R. E. Bratton of Grants Pass is at the Multnomah. In the vicinity of the pass, the road work is getting under way and the mud of Sexton mountain is drying out. Below Grants Pass, where the Pacific highway crosses the Rogue river, the new concrete bridge has been completed and it is one of the most attractive structures on the entire length of the highway. Until a few years ago, tourists driving through, preferred shipping their cars from Grants Pass to Cottage Grove, rather than attempt to push through the new grades. The cars which undertook to drive through generally required a team to drag them part of the distance.

There is one county official in Oregon who doesn't worry about being nominated and re-elected as regularly as the primaries and elections roll around. Jerry Murphy, who is almost a personage, is Til Taylor, high sheriff of Umatilla county. In Umatilla the people vote for Til Taylor as a matter of habit and he is as much an institution as the reservation, the wheat fields or the roundup and when it comes to the roundup, Til is boss of the roundup. Sheriff Taylor is booked at the Imperial.

What Leslie Butler doesn't know about Hood River isn't worth recording. Mr. Butler has been there so long that he is as familiar with the valley, the town and its people as he is with the A-B-C's. The apple orchards were in their infancy when Mr. Butler identified himself with the commercial interests of the community and as president of a bank he was in position to know more of the real inside about the profits of the orchards than possibly any other man. He is registered at the Benson.

A box of dynamite caps was dropped on the floor of the Multnomah by Manager Campbell yesterday and because the caps behaved themselves, there is not a vacancy in the management. A few days ago a patron telephoned Mr. Campbell that he had left a box of caps in his room when checking out, and asked the manager to keep the caps until a contractor friend called. While removing some articles from his deposit box yesterday the box fell, but there was no concussion.

Mrs. J. T. Bridges, whose husband for years had the big turkey ranch at Oakland, Or., and who shipped turkeys from California to Washington, is at the Hotel Portland. Since the death of Mr. Bridges, due to influenza, his widow is carrying on the turkey business. It was the Bridges' turkeys which were partly responsible for Oakland, Or., having its fame for this specialty.

"The public ought to lay off kicking about the cost of shoes," complained a footwear salesman at the Benson. "The price of leather is high, the workmen are receiving more than they were ever paid before and they are turning out less work. There are other things which the people should complain about instead of shoes. The price of sugar, for instance."

J. F. Douglas has contributed his share toward giving Seattle a skyline. He is manager of the Metropolitan Building company and the company has built the Arena auditorium, the Metropolitan theater, the Hippodrome and several office buildings. While in Portland he is located at the Multnomah.

No longer does A. R. Tiffany give advice to the freshmen at the University of Oregon. For years he acted in the capacity of registrar, but finally tired of it and went into the printing business at Eugene. After being in Portland on business for several days, he returned home last night.

R. L. Kosack, formerly in the United States navy, rode from Seattle to Portland Thursday in three hours and 12 minutes. This is the time he made in an airplane, not an automobile.

A very short time after they registered, people began telephoning to Mr. and Mrs. Julien Arnold at the Benson. The Arnolds have been in Pekin, China, for some time.

WORKERS DIVIDED BETWEEN 2

Men in Lumber Camps Want Lowden or Johnson, Says Lowden Supporter.

PORTLAND, May 7.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with interest The Oregonian's articles on presidential favorites and I wish to tell you and your readers not what I have heard but what I know about these candidates.

I am a laboring man and have a good knowledge of what the laboring men think in the lumbering districts. Their choice is either Lowden or Johnson, and you will find that both of these men will have a larger following than you probably imagine at this time. The question is which of these two men do the people of Oregon really want? This question I am not able to answer but I want to say what I personally know about Lowden.

I was raised in the same neighborhood and taught school at the same place as Mr. Lowden. Frank O. Lowden comes from one of the finest families in Iowa and not being endowed with wealth he was taught to look out for himself. This Mr. Lowden did and all his attainments, all the height to which Mr. Lowden has climbed, are due to the wonderful spirit and energy of the man. He fought his way up to his present position not by crowding others down but by looking straight ahead and pushing along. I have followed this man from the barefoot boy on the Iowa farm through all his career through school, through the profession of law, through congress and up to the position as governor of the great state of Illinois, and all the way through he has made good. Mr. Lowden is not a radical, and be assured if nominated he will unite all the different factions in the republican party and lead them to victory.

Friends, laboring men, clerks, all classes of humanity never needed to use so much care in the selection of a man as we do just now. Anarchy and unrest at our very door. We don't want a radical man. We want a solid, true and tried man, and I personally and the whole state of Illinois and every one who has any acquaintance with the man knows that Frank O. Lowden is such a man. Even the democratic party of Illinois in 1918 passed a resolution while in convention indorsing Mr. Lowden for his patriotism and splendid business administration.

I am intensely interested in the welfare of our country; my first vote was cast for James A. Garfield and never before or since that time have I felt such an interest. I am not a politician but feel it my duty to give this warning.

R. A. KLITZING,
1414 Oatman street, Portland, Or.

SNAKES OF SERVICE TO MANKIND

Valuable Agency for Destruction of Vermin Deserves Human Protection.

PORTLAND, May 7.—(To the Editor.)—I read with much interest the story on snakes appearing in the magazine section of The Oregonian last Sunday and am prompted to make a few remarks in defense of the snake.

I feel very grateful to The Oregonian paper for having taken up this defense and hope that it may be carried forward by other papers throughout the country, as from my study of snakes I feel there has always been practiced against them the most harmful of methods; they have been proved to be the most successful destroyers of vermin in the country, especially the slug. This has been actually proved by the agricultural department of Pennsylvania, whose work along this line was carried on by Professor Surface, who has written a book on snake anatomy—a very interesting and helpful book along this line. The fear of the snake should be directed toward the jungles, where many lives are lost each year, and whole settlements destroyed by fire.

I desire at this time to make a request of your paper to endeavor to plant a feeling of humanity toward the snake rather than the fear which exists today, and am anxious to have a movement started whereby all the papers of this and other countries will take up the fight for the snake.

If you give these remarks space, I trust that each reader will help to protect our snakes, which are the greatest vermin destroyers on earth, and to turn their attention to keeping down the fires that destroy our timber and the homes and lives of many settlers each year.

F. HALDEMAN,
806 Montana avenue.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

BLUE JEANS.

When furniture got pretty high,
In eighteen sixty-four,
And no one but the rich could buy
Their outfits at the store,
The common folks in every town
And city in the land,
Conspired to bring the prices down
And bought theirs second-hand.

But when they'd made a market for
Old beds, with legs askew,
The second-hand men charged them more
Than if the stuff was new.
And now, if any buyer seeks
For tables that are old,
He finds that they are called antiques
And worth their weight in gold.

And therefore when we hear today
That people view askance
The prices they are asked to pay
For coats and vests and pants,
And say that they will wear blue jeans—
Those garments of the farm—
And thus conserve their modest means,
We shudder in alarm.

For well we know, and much we fear,
If ladies pay their calls,
And men upon the street appear
Arrayed in overalls,
The price of working clothes will soar
And in the next few weeks
We'll have to pay a fortune for
A suit of blue antiques.

* * *

A Winning Quality.

There will be no opposition to heaping honors on the army mule. Anything with a kick is popular nowadays.

* * *

Trying Us Out.

We are afraid if we made a good job of Armenia the allies would give us a mandatory for Ireland.

* * *

Junkets Come High.

The surest way to boost the H. C. L. is to have a congressional investigation into it.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 8, 1895.

Coroner Cornelius yesterday held an inquest on the body of John N. Hamilton, roadmaster of the Consolidated Street Car company, whose death occurred Monday from injuries received by a fall on the previous day.

The executive committee of the Floral society met in the office of the state horticultural board, Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon to discuss plans for the annual rose show, which will probably take place during the second or third week in June.

The steamer Elmore brought down from Salem yesterday a merry party of excursionists. There were about 200 people and the day was spent in viewing the sights of the metropolis, notwithstanding the cloudy weather.

Now that the school year is coming to an end and the engagements of all teachers are about to expire, applications for positions as teachers are pouring in at a rapid rate.

Tale of the St. Bernard Dog.

Exchange.

Although the tunnels which now connect Switzerland with Italy have greatly decreased the importance of the St. Bernard and other passes, especially during the eight months of snow, it is still deemed advisable to employ St. Bernard dogs. It is no longer customary, however, to send out the dogs alone with baskets of food and drink; a man always accompanies them. These dogs are not really of the famous old St. Bernard breed. That originated in the 14th century, through a cross between a shepherd dog from Wales and a Scandinavian dog whose parents were a Great Dane and a Pyrenean mastiff. The last pure descendant of this tribe was buried under an avalanche in 1816. Fortunately, there were found subsequently at Martigny and on the Simplon pass a few dogs which by crossing with mates from Wales yielded the modern St. Bernard dog, which is physically even stronger than his medieval namesake and shares most of his traits.

Boyville in Portland Today and Yesterday

The back lots of the city, beyond the residences and factories, where the dandelions have a chance at their destiny and the wild currant strives for place, are the settings for multifarious boyish adventures—relates De Witt Harry, special contributor to the magazine section of the Sunday issue. The manner in which this narration takes up its subject is bound to make you remember the days of real sport. With illustrations.

The Then and Now of a Bathing Suit.—Ahem! This discourse touches upon the growth of daring in feminine bathing attire—from the modest sea togs of the year 1890 to those of 1920, which aren't so modest, not by many yards. Gertrude Epperson, writing in the Sunday issue, and furnishing photographs of the bathing girls of every decade during the last 30 years, is champion of the shapely one-piece suits of the present, as contrasted with the restrictive modes of the past. "They know how to handle themselves in the surf because their suits give them a chance," asserts Gertrude, referring to modern bathing maids.

No Pugilist Could Cope With Chimpanzee.—They've called the modern knight of the squared circle a great many hard names, have the sport writers and the clergy—but the favorite slant is to dub them "abysmal brutes." As a matter of fact they are athletes trained to the minute, with every muscle and nerve and sinew responding to the slightest impulse—perfect physical mechanisms. Yet such is the strength of great apes—the gorilla and the chimpanzee—that Carpentier, or Fred Fulton, or any of the great ones of the ring—past or present—would meet death in terrible form were they to cope with the wild anthropoid of the African jungle. "Tarzan," of course, is a figment of fiction—and in this article the author, Camillus Phillips, purports to give the facts.

Why It Is Fun to Be President.—The general public notion of the presidency is that it is a task of carking care and crushing responsibilities. There's no question about the magnitude of the White House tenancy—the job is huge—but there are recompenses, declares Rene Bach in a special article for the Sunday magazine section. The reasons why even the president can have, if he will, the best of times—not mentioning his private yacht and special train, are enumerated in this entirely timely topic tale.

The Bride Who Refused to Say "Yes."—A most unusual wedding story, in the Sunday issue, narrating the perplexity of the clergyman when the bride suddenly ceased talking and began upon the sign symbols of the mute language. Was she stricken dumb? The answer is novel as given by Mrs. Nellie Gillespie, who was that bride.

Study Election Ballots.—There are four ballots to be voted in Portland in the election of May 21 and three to be voted in the state outside of Portland. All of these ballots, as they are officially prepared, will be printed tomorrow. Every voter will appreciate this opportunity to familiarize himself with the election issues.

All the News of All the World
THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN