Morning Oregonian

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LABOR'S VIEWS OF THE PLATFORMS.

As a demonstration of the species of impartiality between political parties that is practiced by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, its action with regard to the republican and democratic platforms is enlightening. At its recent convention at Montreal the federation adopted what it called labor's demands, thus disregarding the vast majority of working people that is outside of its ranks. It presented these demands to the resolutions committees of both party conventions. The republican platform was no sooner adopted than President Gompers recommended and the federation adopted an unqualified condemnation. The committee of the federation has taken much time and pains to study the democratic platform and has at last published its conclusions. These are:

> In summarizing it is but fair to say that the democratic platform marks a measure of progress not found in the platform of the republican party. In relation to labor's proposals the planks written into the democratic platform more nearly approximate the desired declarations of human rights than do the planks found in the republican platform.
>
> The men and women of labor of the United States and her liberty-loving people must judge. Between the declarations of these parties. The impending campaign and election for president and vice-president, United States senators and members of the house of representatives is upon us and the citizenship of our country must determine its own course in electing those candidates for these offices who are most friendly disposed toward labor, justice, freedom, democracy and humanity, and to defeat those who are less friendly or more hostile to these principles.
>
> Labor of America is not partisan to any political party; it is partisan to principles, the principles of justice and freedom. It undertakes neither to dictate nor control the choice of the workers or the citizenship generally for which party or candidates they should vote, but it would be a culpable dereliction of duty did we fail to place the facts before the voters of this country upon the records of both parties and their respective candidates for public office.

Those conclusions are not justified by comparison between the declarations on labor questions, for there is very little difference between them on material points.

The right of wage-earners to organize trade unions, to select their own representatives and to bargain collectively was asserted by the republican platform and, as it has been exercised almost entirely through the unions, the right to form unions is plainly implied, in fact, is so commonly conceded as not to need reassertion.

A further specific declaration of the right of voluntary association was demanded on behalf of labor, together with a demand for protection against abuse of injunctions. The democrats grant the former demand with a statement that "labor is not a commodity; it is human"—an axiom upon which the republican party has always acted without so much talk as democrats indulge in. Neither platform refers to injunctions, but the Wilson administration recently went farther in resort to them to end the coal strike than has any former administration. Yet the federation committee smooths over that point by saying:

> Failure of the platform to endorse the injunctions secured through the efforts of Attorney-General Palmer in the miners' case may fairly be assumed to constitute repudiation of that action.

Legislation to make strikes unlawful or to compel arbitration or mediation of labor disputes was condemned by the federation, which held that the government should simply "supply information, assistance and counsel." It did not claim the right to strike for public employes, but said that they "should not be denied the right of organization, the right of representation for rectification of grievances and political rights accorded to all other citizens." The democratic platform uses many words to assert the right of the people to insist on justice between capital and labor, and the duty of labor to recognize its duty to the state and to assist in formulating and to obey laws "governing the conditions under which labor is performed." It pledges the party to devise methods of composing differences of this nature, but opposes compulsory arbitration. It bluntly declares that "the rights of the people are paramount to the right to strike," but promises "instant inquiry" and "speedy regulation" of the pay of government employes.

The republican platform says substantially the same thing in fewer words. It justifies government initiative against strikes or lockouts because they "inflict loss and suffering on the community." It denies the right to strike against the government, but says:

> The rights and interests of all government employes must be safeguarded by impartial laws.

For public utilities it favors inquiry and rendering of decisions by impartial tribunals, pending which there should be no interruption of public service, the decisions to be morally, but not legally, binding. As to private industries it says: "We do not advocate the principle of compulsory arbitration by impartial commissions, supplemented by publicity, all on government initiative. This plan does not differ materially from that favored by the democrats, but it is more clearly stated. The federation committee has this to say of the democratic plank:

> The platform provisions here set forth are specific in condemnation of compulsory arbitration in disputes in privately-owned industry. There is a vagueness in the balance of the first two paragraphs. There is uncertainty as to what the platform means to convey in its reference to the obligation of the workers to the state and the proposal to find a substitute for the right of workers to cease work when cessation of work is said to endanger the lives or health of the people.

The federation accepts the democratic declaration of the rights of government employes, which the republican platform does not deny, while not affirming them, but it says that the last paragraph "implies methods in the settlement of disputes in government employment which can not be approved as a general statement of government policy."

Rights of free speech, press, assemblage and association were asserted by the federation. They are upheld with about equal vehemence by both platforms, but both also deny that they extend to advocacy of resistance to the law or overthrow of the government.

"Vigorous enforcement of the seamen's act and the most liberal interpretation of its provisions" were demanded by the federation. The democratic platform is silent on the subject. The republican platform favors an American merchant marine "manned by American seamen" and "the application of the workmen's compensation acts to the merchant marine." As it stands for enforcement of all laws, evidently the party considered specific mention of the seamen's act superfluous.

It was declared that "we must put an end to the employment for profit of children under sixteen years of age." The democrats met this by taking credit for the present child labor law and by urging co-operation with the states for protection of child life, prohibition of child labor and by adequate appropriations for the children's and women's bureaus. The republican platform says the party "stands for a federal child labor law and for its rigid enforcement" and promises that, "if the present law be found unconstitutional or ineffective," it will "seek other means to enable congress to prevent the evils of child labor." Its record proves its sincerity, for, though the child labor law of 1916 was passed by a democratic congress, it was opposed by only two republicans in the house and two in the senate, while forty-four democratic representatives and ten democratic senators voted against it.

We might go to the end of the chapter to prove the rank partiality of this federation committee which pretended to be impartial. It set out to make a case, if it possibly could, in favor of the democratic platform, and therefore has toned down what might arouse opposition among union men. The reason is not far to seek. It has found the democratic party more amenable to pressure when labor unions make demands contrary to the rights of the people. It found in President Wilson "a man who yields," as one of its leaders expressed it. The record of the republican party proves that it has passed far more laws and more important ones to improve the condition of labor than the democratic party has passed, and that almost all the states which lag behind are democratic. But the republican party, while doing justice to labor, will not gratify it by doing injustice to the public. Those working men who are fair-minded will recognize this fact, and only the labor politicians will be influenced by a one-sided analysis of the platforms.

DUTIES OF THE FOREIGN-BORN.

By refusing to naturalize an alien who had lived in the United States for thirty-nine years and who sought citizenship only in order that he might qualify for a license to fish, Judge Gatens gave notice to all aliens residing in this country that they owe an obligation to the nation, which they must assume in order to enjoy the privileges of citizenship.

An idea has prevailed among immigrants that it was policy to become citizens because they thereby acquired the right to vote, to hold office, to homestead public land, to file mining claims. These were rights and privileges which they acquired; no thought was given to reciprocal duties which they must perform. Because it was not required that a man must be a citizen in order to obtain a license to fish, foreign fishermen flocked in, and few of them were naturalized. When the law was changed to require naturalization, they sought citizenship as a matter of sordid self-interest, not out of loyalty to a country which gives them an opportunity to make a better living than they could make anywhere else on earth. They needed the severe rebuke Conrad Madsen was given.

The war has had one beneficial effect in that it has impressed on the foreign-born that citizenship not only confers rights but imposes duties. It has taught them that this republic needs defense, that its citizens must defend it and that it is well worth defending. If any of them have any doubt on that point, let them go back whence they came and try living under the government under which they were born as it has been changed by the war.

AN ENFORCED INCOGNITO.

The spectacular spontaneity with which the Coolidge boom burgeoned at Chicago, bearing immediate fruit in the republican vice-presidential nomination, was the dramatic incident of the convention. Judge Wallace McCamant, not altogether unknown on the Pacific coast and elsewhere, was the man from Oregon who launched that impromptu and most happy selection. So much for political history. The essential novelty of the episode fired the fancy of newspaper men everywhere. It was unheard-of but apropos, it was unconventional but effective—in a word it was "western." Comment ran to that effect.

Alas, Judge McCamant! Though the thought was remote from his mind, it is but a natural sequence that makers of history shall receive the credit therefor. Yet in this instance, while the epic tale of the Coolidge nomination is still current in the columns of the eastern press, the identity of its source is cloaked beneath such vague nomenclature as "an Oregon man," or "an Oregon delegate," or "an Oregon attorney." Somewhere in the shuffle of great events the card index of a just credit has been misplaced. It is pulchritudinous publicity for Oregon, and the head of the state is high in pride, but Judge McCamant is far removed from the horn-spectacled vision of the eastern paragraphers. Now, had it been a New Yorker, or a Philadelphian, or even a delegate from Portland, Me., whose inspired thought and action had been the nomination of Coolidge, with what acclaim would his renown be perpetuated!

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, in a review of Governor Coolidge's book, "Have Faith in Massachusetts," alludes to that volume as the original mainspring of the nomination, but commits the slovenly discourtesy of not remembering the name of Judge McCamant. "The Oregon lawyer who started the Coolidge boom at Chicago tells how he happened to do it," comments the Ledger, and thereupon relates that this nameless delegate had read the volume with such approval that he knew Coolidge for a patriot and the man of the hour. Both Governor Coolidge and Oregon win fame from the review, but Judge McCamant remains incognito. Presumably this omission will not worry him in the least, for his is the consciousness of public service well performed.

A LEFT-HANDED TRIBUTE TO PORTLAND.

Decision of the shipping board to establish operating headquarters for the north Pacific district at Seattle instead of at Portland is a plain violation of the business principles which should govern. The board is concerned only with the volume of business done by its own vessels at the two ports. It has nothing to do with the business carried on foreign and privately owned American ships. The traffic carried on shipping board vessels to and from Porotland exceeds that carried on such vessels to and from Seattle. That fact should be conclusive.

Seattle's anxiety to be headquarters for vessels plying from Portland as well as Puget sound ports is due to realization of the weakness of its position as compared with Portland's. Its ocean traffic is mainly transcontinental and its ocean vessels are mostly foreign-owned. Only a small proportion of its traffic across the Pacific and to Europe originates in its own trade territory and is carried in American bottoms. By way of contrast, almost all the ships plying to Portland are American, more than half the goods shipped from this port originate in the Columbia basin and more than half the imports are for home consumption. This situation gives Portland a strong hand to draw to. Presence of so much domestic freight attracts ships, and the ships attract transcontinental freight to complete cargoes. That situation will naturally incline railroads to deliver more of their export freight at Portland and less at Seattle. Thus Seattle's grip on railroad favor is weakening. It desires to strengthen that grip by having the operating officials of the shipping board in its midst and subject to its vigilance and influence.

Past relations of the two ports forbid hope that Portland can get a square deal by the proposed arrangement. Seattle has always shown fear of Portland competition by exaggeration of the difficulties presented by the Columbia river bar and channel, and it has industriously spread all over the world the false belief that Portland was inaccessible to ships. Now that the bar has been obliterated and the channel deepened to thirty feet at low water, now that the naval board has attested these facts and that many ships have proved them, while others add to the proof daily by coming and going in safety, now that a preliminary decision forecasts ending of rate discrimination in favor of the sound, Seattle finds that its campaign of representation will no longer work. Therefore it falls back more than ever on official favors.

This conduct of a competitor is in itself a tribute to the strength of Portland's natural position. It has not been coddled by railroads; quite the contrary. It has not been made the Pacific terminus of foreign steamship lines. I has had to struggle for years against natural obstructions to navigation, which it has only recently overcome. Its natural advantages are still annulled by discrimination in railroad rates. But as soon as the bar is abolished and the channel deepened and as ships are available, traffic begins to flow here and ships begin to come here as though by instinct, and alarm spreads in ports which depend on artificial conditions for a large part of their traffic. The reason is that Portland is the natural outlet for the traffic, as it is for the waters, of the Columbia river basin. Traffic comes here despite the rate barrier that is designed to divert it to the sound, as soon as the barriers to its continued flow out to sea are removed. It will follow this course so long as the energy of Portland provides means for handling it.

CALL THE COOKS TO ACTION

Nothing is more praiseworthy these times than any attempt to popularize a hitherto scorned or neglected article of diet that, nevertheless, is both palatable and rich in nutriment. The maw of the world is gaping for food, wider than ever before, and even increased speed in production of the staple articles does not entirely promise to suffice. Herein is no hint of famine but rather a presage that food prices will not decline as sharply as they have risen. The scouts of civilization have been sent on the search for "something just as good" and they have turned to the sea, mother of life. They bring home strange fishes, tossed back to the brine by fishermen of an earlier era, and tell us that these are the equals of the cod and the salmon. To some extent their offerings have attained popularity, but it is not so with their most brobdingnagian haul, the whale. This giant mammal of the deep may some day be so disguised in clever cookery that the normal palate will find his steaks acceptable, but for the present his culinary reign will remain where it has long prevailed, in the scattered igloos of the northland.

Such a prediction is without prejudice to the whaling industry, already of considerable magnitude on the Grays Harbor coast of Washington, for the novelty of experimenting with the flesh of the leviathan, when it is offered in the markets, will continue to attract purchasers. General Custer is said to have professed a fondness, a pronounced appetite, for the flesh of the rattlesnake and was wont to squat by the cooking fire with his Indian scouts when one of them chanced to bag a fat diamond-back. The shudder with which ordinary folks would turn from such a repast is probably but the reflex of an instinct old as Adam. The diamond-back may be as toothsome, as delectable, as the "chief with the long, yellow hair" maintained it to be, but even Custer, we imagine, would shake his head in negation at a second helping of whale steak, another slice of finback roast or an additional platter of whale goulash.

The United States bureau of fisheries, tirelessly on the trail of its official hobby, declares that the protein content of canned whale meat is 34 per cent, in favorable contrast to 12 or 14 per cent in canned beef, the "willie" that haunts the troubled dreams of men who served overseas. There is no desire to question the scientific accuracy of this comparative analysis, but if proteins rioted in the green and golden fibers of that old meadow friend, the skunk-cabbage, would they enhance the value of the distasteful dish? Not altogether fair to the whale is that poser, for the parallel is somewhat overdrawn. But it will serve for the purpose of illustration. The truth is, while the choicest finback cuts do resemble beef and are free from bone, gristle and fat, bearing no physical resemblance to fish, the analogy ends there. For whale flesh does most indisputably and objectionably savor of misplaced fish fats and fluids. The degree may vary but the taste is there.

Tastes are strange suzerains. That which our trained and orthodox appetites turn from is often the delicacy, the tid-bit, of other people. There are many who prefer carp to trout. From the roof of a Chinese restaurant, in a Portland fire some years ago, was tossed a bundle of skinned, dried animals. Inspection revealed the carcasses to be those of civet-cats. A queer quirk of the human palate? Peculiar to the Chinese? Not at all. The old prospector who rambles with his burro through the Oregon hills will tell you that the flesh of the skunk, when properly prepared, is a delicious dinner. Backwoodsmen say that cougar meat is whiter, more tender and more delicious than veal. The Indians practiced thrift by skinning their muskrats for the furs and then roasting the flesh. The meat of the muskrat is in high esteem in many American communities.

To return to our whale, it may be possible that skilled preparation will entice the palate to a second helping. The food value is there and the mighty bulk of the animal looms like an entire carload of Texas steers. His pastures are the sea and the crow's-nest shout of "There she blows!" means that the largest living largess of the ocean is ready for the taking. One may properly wish the chemists and cooks well as they toil at their task of making whale-meat entirely acceptable to the palate.

The tendency in circles of higher education to divert the current of foreign students from the larger institutions of learning to others of first class but of smaller size shows recognition of the especial mission that the smaller colleges, usually designated as "freshwater," has to perform. There is growing belief that we have too deep reverence for mere bigness and that this may have blinded us to the merit of modesty, in institutions as well as among men. That a better understanding of American problems could be obtained by a foreigner at a smaller institution situated in a rural district than at the greater universities is a contention that may arouse the ire of the latter, but the desirability that both classes of institutions should be understood as part of the American system of education is manifest. Nor are the benefits one-sided, as some suppose. If students themselves are helped by the broadening of their associations, the smaller colleges would seem to be entitled to a share of the good things that are going around.

Perhaps figures lie occasionally, especially census figures, though a man's estimate of his home town always is optimistic. Five hundred people appear twice that to him. Statistics on Oregon towns are not satisfying, but they stand.

The housewife is likely to get all the cherries she wants this week at an old-time price. Sugar is high, of course, but the tendency is to use a syrup too heavy, and the jarred stuff will taste better next winter for the less.

The campaign to make the minimum wage of the federal employe three dollars cannot bear fruit before next year. The high-up democrat is not much concerned with the wage of his lowest-paid help.

The bank president in Oakland, Cal., who kept $20,000 in cash and valuables in a vault in his residence and lost all to a robber and dynamite may not be now so much in favor of distributing the risk.

When a wife goes away with another man she is starting communion with death. Instances daily show this. The "pirate" is too low down in the scale to protect her in trouble. What fools such women be!

Cashier Zintheo of the Starbuck bank, locked in the vault, expected that treatment and kept a screwdriver at hand. That was better than a gun, which might have hurt somebody.

Mr. Gompers is preparing to take the stump against congressional candidates he alleges are unfriendly to labor. Mr. Gompers will be filling the role of a good democrat.

There is no fun for the small boy swimming if he must wear a suit and he should be given the run of the pools a few days a week as nature intends he should swim.

Perhaps that dog guarding the Adamless Eden of the Reed college girls' camp got disgusted and quit her job. A dog heeds a man around for boss.

There is nothing in any "Hints on Taking a Vacation" that we have ever read that says a word about neglecting the home garden.

British sailors in Bermuda, who offer insult to the American flag pick their time when there are no "leathernecks" around.

The more displeased the Germans are with the nominations for president, the more pleased the American people will be.

If this milk problem gets much bigger, a fellow must take a day off to digest it.

The tower of Babel was not completed at Chicago, either.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES

Discovery of Radium Reversed Alchemists' Dream.

The old alchemist didn't worry about the conservation of matter of the law of cause and effect. He thought he had the ultimate by the horns, and patiently boiled sulphur, mercury, perspiration and toads' legs, confident that sooner or later he would produce the "magic stone" which would transform lead into gold. But he never succeeded, and the scientists who followed indulged in many a laugh at the alchemist who thought it possible to turn lead into gold.

But in 1896, a writer in the Electrical Experimenter points out, science suffered as thrilling a shock as if a descendant of old Petrus Peregrinus had announced the discovery of the proper bath for changing the basest of all metals into gleaming gold. Up to that time the scientists had been patting themselves on the back, supremely confident that they had diagnosed Mother Nature's case so completely that she could never again produce any startling innovations. Yet here was radium, an element thousands of times as precious as the golden goal of the alchemists, spontaneously changing itself into lead.

In performing this startling reversal of the alchemists' dream, radium revealed a whole world of complex actions going on within the atom itself, which had long been considered the simplest unit of matter. Scientists were thus forced to reconstruct most of their ideas regarding the constitution of matter. In the light of the new knowledge presented by radium it was apparent that, to a minute creature of a size comparable to that of an atom, every atom of matter would seem as complex a world as the whole universe appears to us.

Pure radium is a silvery metal, but it is usually extracted in the form of radium bromide of chloride, which are white salts. Twenty tons of the richest pitchblende would yield a small thimbleful of radium. Radium costs approximately 300 times as much as a diamond.

The characteristic and indeed the most wonderful property of radium is its ability to emit continuously a spontaneous radiation capable of penetrating solid bodies through which light cannot pass. It was this phenomenon which led to the discovery of radium. These rays are of two kinds, one being waves in the ether, an invisible light similar to X-rays, while the other consists of minute particles of matter actually shot off by the radium. The atoms of radium are continually exploding, and every second a thimbleful of the substance shoots out more bullets than there were dollars in the liberty loan, yet the particles are so small that the thimbleful can continue to do this for 2000 years and there will still be half a thimbleful left.

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The time honored gold miner's term for gold ore, or auriferous gravel in placer diggings, is "pay dirt." This desirable material is found not only in the golden west, but knowing jewelry manufacturers "strike it rich" in the city. Maiden Lane, New York city, district gold mining prospects are in jewelry factory floors, which yield platinum, gold and silver.

These metals are also extracted from dentists' refuse and from the sweepings of gold beaters, bookbinders, pottery decorators, picture frame and mirror manufacturers.

Few manufacturing firms melt their own sweeps. In the '70s none of the manufacturers thought of covering their shop floors with either tar felting or linoleum and the floors were of pine wood, with open cracks between the boards. When a manufacturer moved he requisitioned a refiner to superintend the ripping up of the floors, and these sometimes yielded many thousands of dollars.

Julius Wodiska, a jewel expert, relates an experience of his own. From 1879 to 1885 he had a factory over the store of an exterminator of rats and other vermin, who owned the building. In the summer of 1884 a shrewd gold refiner, who knew the large amount of precious metals handled in Mr. Wodiska's place, told the landlord that any time the jeweler moved he, the refiner, would pay the rat catching landlord $300 for the privilege of taking up and relaying the floor of the jewelry factory. The landlord notified Wodiska that on the first of the coming May his rent would be doubled. Wodiska refused to pay and said he would move. The landlord was more than pleased. But Mr. Wodiska moved on April 1 and during that month he had the floor carefully torn up and every square inch of it and of the space below it scraped. In vain the landlord protested and threatened a lawsuit. Before his lease expired Mr. Wodiska had replaced the old floor and he was quite astonished at the large amount of gold his refiner returned to him after the scrapings and dirt had been put through a furnace.

* * *

Frank Klague, a federal employe of Valparaiso, Ind., owns three historical documents for which he has just refused an offer by an eastern historical society of $1500. The documents are reports made by Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, while the latter was president, and dealt with the middle west territory, which was then an unsettled region.

One of the reports deals with the northwest territory and one with the navigation on the Mississippi river. Jefferson made a survey of this territory, which afterward became a part of the country through the Louisiana Purchase.

The documents are of a bulgy character, in Jefferson's own handwriting, and are legible, although the ink has eaten into the paper in some places. Mr. Klague's wife obtained the papers through her grandfather, a New York city publisher, who had obtained the reports for publication, and they had never been returned, coming down through the generations of the family.—Indianapolis Star.

* * *

To Kipling an American once wrote, according to the Boston Transcript, "Hearing that you are retailing literature at $1 a word, I enclose $1 for a sample."

Mr. Kipling complied with "Thanks" and kept the dollar.

Two weeks later the American wrote, "Sold the "Thanks" anecdote for $2. Enclosed please find 46 cents in stamps, being half the profits on the transaction, less the postage."

Those Who Come and Go.

To meet his father, Billy Sunday, evangelist extraordinary, Billy Sunday Jr. arrived in Portland yesterday from the Hood River farm. Young Billy is studying law at the Indiana Law school of Indianapolis and says he has no inclination to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious parent. According to the son, the evangelist will stay a few more days on the farm and then will go to Winona Lake, Ind., where he will visit the colony of evangelists established at that place. "Yes, we've a pretty nice farm in the valley," said Billy Junior yesterday. "We raise hogs and chickens and Dad likes nothing better than to be working there. However, he found it necessary to speak at the Chautauqua at Corvallis and I expect to meet him in Portland. We will drive out to the farm in the auto."

Fame of the city which lies at the mouth of the Willamette has spread and even those who reside in England have heard whispers of the beauty of the Oregon country and of the spirit of its citizens. H. Wickman, prominent business man of Manchester, England, passed through Portland yesterday, registering at the Perkins. Mr. Wickman left his home city two months ago, landed at Montreal, journeyed through Canada and was en route to San Francisco, where he is to join his wife. According to the visitor, Portland is amazing to one whose every-day view has been restricted to smoke and blackened buildings. "Do you know," said Mr. Wickman, "it really is a pleasure to gaze upon white buildings, clean streets and a clear sky. It must be remembered that Manchester is the greatest manufacturing city of England and to erect a white building in that city is folly. The building is as black as coal within a few weeks."

At last the east is hearing of the natural advantages of the coast and particularly of the city of Portland, and it is all brought about by the royal treatment of the city's visitors during Shrine week, according to C. W. Myers, member of the Medinah temple of Chicago, who remained in the city yesterday at the Portland to break the journey from his home to California.

"Believe me" asserted the noble, "the east has heard of the wonderful greeting we received here, because every noble who attended the convention is telling his friends of it. The visitors were delighted at the splendid reception given them and noted the fact that they were not held up at the restaurants, hotels or theaters. The value of this to the city in advertising cannot be estimated."

"A bumper wheat crop is expected by farmers of the Grand Ronde valley this year," said C. R. Harding, assistant cashier of the United States National bank of La Grande, yesterday Mr. Harding is en route to Salem, where he will attend the state convention of Elks to be held at the capital city this week. "As far as the celebrated wind storms of the valley are concerned," asserted Mr. Harding, "we have failed to experience them this year and very little wheat was lost because of the wind. In fact, I may say that the outlook for a bumper crop is excellent and wheat growers of the section hope to secure a larger yield this year than any of the five or six preceding years." Mr. Harding is at the Multnomah.

National parks are this year attracting a greater number of tourists than ever before, and it is said that the education of the sightseer is not complete unless he has viewed the glories of the Yellowstone and the beauties of the Glacier National parks. A party consisting of Miss R. Marts, Mrs. M. P. Griffith, Mrs. Mildred Green and Miss Sadie Arnold, all from Los Angeles, rested yesterday at the Benson preparatory to their visit to Glacier park. While in the city the Californians viewed the highway and were pleased. Members of the party departed from Los Angeles one day prior to the earthquake and are congratulating themselves on their decision to leave at precisely the time they did.

When the heat of the summer sun begins to melt the asphalt streets and when the tide of tourist travel is at its height then it is that the hotel clerk takes him to the hills and streams, there to spend his time lolling in the shade of some friendly tree while his lazy line, whirling in the rapids, lures the voracious trout. "Johnny" O'Brien, room clerk at the Portland, yesterday cranked his new four-cylinder automobile and journeyed to parts unknown. Friends watching his departure noted the fact that the auto was hitting on five cylinders as it drew away from the hotel but here is the possible supposition that the fifth cylinder was nothing more or less than a knock in the engine.

Southern California is noted all over the world for the beauty of its natural scenery and the smiling effulgence of its omnipresent sun, and yet according to the local hotel clerks numbers of tourists from the golden state have come to Portland to spend the summer months enjoying Oregon's scenery. Mrs. A. Clifford Towers and Mrs. Charles W. Wilhelm, prominent matrons of Pasadena, registered yesterday at the Portland, coming to the city to visit friends.

Out-of-town residents are taking advantage of the splendid summer months to visit Portland and once more gaze upon the Columbia highway. Mrs. C. C. Cathey and Mrs. W. K. Jamieson, both of Albany, arrived in the city yesterday and are at the Oregon. Mrs. Cathey is wife of the southern representative of the Irwin-Hodson company of Portland.

Touring the Pacific coast states under the auspices of the Raymond Whitcomb travel bureau, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Parrish, Henry Parrish 2d, Miss Marie Parrish and Edward C. Parrish Jr., all of New York, arrived in the city yesterday and are at the Benson. Their western trip will include California.

E. W. Farmer, clerk at the Perkins, left yesterday for Oregon City on two weeks' vacation. It is Mr. Farmer's intention to make that place his headquarters for his onslaughts upon the trout streams of the vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hunter, well-known residents of Albany, were in the city yesterday and registered at the Oregon.

Heat and earthquakes apparently caused the departure from Pasadena of J. H. Henry and J. B. Henry. The duo arrived in the city yesterday and registered at the Portland.

Jabez Smith and wife of Newark Valley, N. Y., touring the coast, were in the city yesterday. They are guests of the Multnomah.

First Transcontinental Road.

PORTLAND, July 17.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me in what year and by what system was the first railroad built into Portland from the east, and in what year did the Northern Pacific enter Portland.

J. J. JOHNSON.

Portland's first transcontinental railroad service was attained in 1883 through completion of the Northern Pacific to a connection with the Oregon Railway & Navigation company and affiliation of the two lines.

FARM PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED

Tillers of Soil Demand More Than Vague Political Promises.

FOREST GROVE, Or., July 17.—(To the Editor.)—The most vital thing in a nation's life is food, that the insurance against revolutions forever is a sufficiently large fraction of our population engaged in agriculture and contented, owning their land, conserving the soil, assured of a fair return for their labor. It is squarely up to the American voter to speak in no uncertain terms for the farmer. Self-interest demands it. Idealism demands it. Unless something is done to stop the inroads being made upon the welfare of American agriculture, upon your three meals a day, then we shall have in years to come a class-cleavage of American farmers who will have been driven to the wall, and another example of the damage done to American institutions by agitators who, finding a class grievance, raise a class conflict with all its exaggerated bitterness tearing at our fabric of mutual interest to separate it into shreds of self-interest.

That is why you are interested in banging on the door of both political parties. You demand that one or the other of them shall meet our agricultural future face to face, and shall deal with it by keeping pledges made in Chicago by the republican party or in San Francisco by the democratic party.

We shall not be satisfied by glib platform promises. If either party is going to play jackstraws with our agricultural question, the fact of that deceit will stand up like a water tower on a treeless hill. The biggest industry in America is not to be chucked under the chin by soft finger tips. Economically, it is the basic industry. It furnishes the foundation for life, and not only for life, but for trade. Socially, it is the backbone of the country; it keeps available the only supply of human resources that will remain strong and virile, that will forever furnish the social stability and the leadership of humanity—the supply which comes from contact with Mother Earth.

If either of the great parties wants to go on playing with the agricultural future of the United States, it has plenty of opportunity. It can be vague and general and give forth pleasant sounds; and it can declare for petty measures such as wiping out the government free-seed nuisance that has long amused and irritated the farmers, and it can declare for raising the pay of the experts of the department of agriculture. These are good measures, but they and their kind do not touch the vitals of our basic industry.

W. J. R. BEACH.

GREED MAY BE ITS OWN UNDOING

Profiteers Reject Selfish Prudence in Opening Russian Door.

PORTLAND, July 17.—(To the Editor.)—It is often and truthfully said by social economists that the profit system carries within itself the germs of its own destruction. Your editorial, "Danger in Trade With the Soviet," so forcibly verifies this fact that it prompts the writing of this letter.

The abnormal human greed, not manifest in any other of the animal creations, has so malformed our human relations that even prudence in safety from undesired changes by the profiteers is swept aside for the making of profits.

Each nationality, anticipating the rivalry of other nationalities in the mad race for profits, is planing to resume commercial relations with soviet Russia, hoping to escape the consequences, yet full well knowing the impossibility of such escape. Profiteers in England, Italy, Belgium and the United States and—reactionary of all reactionaries—France, demand of their governments, through their labile governments—the money power—the breaking down of the undeclared but surely existing blockade of Russia. The individual greed-rivalry existing among all men under the profit system manifests itself even more forcibly among nations.

I am reminded of an incident illustrative of this profit-system-destroying germ that occurred several years ago in an argument on "free moral agency" with a friend. My argument supporting this question was made by taking a stick and offering my friend to suggest whether I break it or lay it down unbroken. I insisted I could do either. Some time afterward I met the friend again and, says he, "Your argument was not sound. Suppose you see a twenty-dollar gold piece lying in the road. Will you go by it or pick it up?" The great profit possibilities of trade with soviet Russia open wide the gate to the next economic evolution of the world. It is inevitable. The unheard-of abnormality of profit taking now rampant wherever the governments fail to supervise and regulate by actual agreement, points the way to the next world epoch.

C. W. BARZEE.

WHY TALK ABOUT 'SUPERIORITY'?

Men and Women Are Just Different, Not Necessarily Unequal.

FOREST GROVE, Or., July 17.—(To the Editor.)—I have always been interested in the letters of the people as printed on the editorial page of The Oregonian, but it seems to me rather absurd that men and women of this age of civilization should be quarreling about which is ahead intellectually. It reminds me of two small boys quarreling. The first said: "I am bigger than you are and I can lick you."

Women are equal to men intellectually. The education of the age is trying to make them equal. Ever since the barbarian age, when physical strength was the only thing that counted, men have been trying to bring women up to their side as partners in the story of life. Is it not natural that a man should ask the advice of his partner before he enters some large business undertaking? But are all the wives as interested as they should be?

One sex is not ahead of the other. No! And never will be. I don't care how smart you are, there is always someone who knows more than you do about a certain subject.

Man, for the simple reason that he is a man, looks at things from a masculine point of view. In other words, they are, as a general rule, more aggressive, more apt to be the leaders. I don't mean that they are any better or know any more than women, but they are men. It is more natural for a woman to be interested in the home, in flowers, etc. Of course, you have all heard of the masculine woman and the feminine man.

If a woman is interested in business there is no reason why she should not take up business, just as well as a man. Women are making just as large a success in business as men, but they are not so numerous, because it is not so natural for a woman to like the things that men like.

MILTON SIMON.

John D. Rockefeller Sr., Still Living.

SCAPPOOSE, Or., July 17.—(To the Editor.)—A says John D. Rockefeller Sr. is dead and has been for several years. B says he is still living. Which is right?

J. M. K.

John D. Rockefeller Sr. was born in 1839. He is still alive and well. He celebrated his 81st birthday recently on the same day that his son was a visitor in Portland. He lives at Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, N. Y.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

No longer our dear little Johnny
Is thrilled to his innocent core
By those tales of the west in which virtue distressed
Was wholly surrounded by gore.
No more are his morals imperiled
By the chapters of hideous crime
Where villains saw red and shot nice people dead
In the novels that sold for a dime.

Forgot is the dreadful dime novel
We read when our dads were not by,
Forgot are the tales of the wild western trails
Where heroes looked death in the eye;
A dime will not buy the same fiction
As it did in the dear long ago.
But you'll find the same crooks, and their crimes in the books
That cost you two dollars a throw.

No more does the blood-curdling drama
(Ten, twenty and thirty a seat)
Rouse youth to a pitch of excitedness which
Caused pulses to flutter and beat.
No more does one Theodore Kremer
Put seventeen crimes in one play.
For the hard-working horde who could never afford
To go to the shows on Broadway.

Ten, twenty and thirty cent thrillers
Are things of the long faded past;
No longer the crowd shrieks its horror aloud
As it looks at these dramas aghast.
If you're looking for dramatized bloodshed,
With hideous murders replete,
You only can go to a nice high-class show
At a cost of five fish for a seat!

* * *

He Mourns Alone.

Ball players will have no sympathy for the umpire who was robbed at the polo grounds in New York. They say it is poetic justice that he was the victim of a crook at the very scene of so many of his own crimes.

* * *

He Better Be Watched.

Bryan says his heart is in the grave but politically he has several times had one foot there and he seems to have left his hat in the well-known ring.

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A LOVE SONG.

I have looked for a love,
A great white love,
Out from your eyes so true,
A love that would transplant me
Body and soul,
Into a life with you,
Into a realm of unspeakable bliss
Where the dreams of the soul come true;
Where though we sat silent speaking no word,
My soul could converse with you.

Your eyes, like the beams of the morning sun
That brighten and transform the dew,
Would gleam and shine as they looked in mine
Beholding my love for you.
Would gleam and shine like the rarest gem
Transmitting a rainbow hue.

So in this realm of the soul's great bliss,
In this land of unspeakable joy,
We two shall be one both body and soul
With nothing to mar or alloy.
And a trust like the trust of God in man
Will spring up—that none can destroy.

So come while I wait in this great hope,
For nothing shall more annoy,
Come, singing the song of spring in your heart,
And make full my soul's great joy.

—AMY ELIZABETH CARSON.

THE NEW ARISTOCRACY.

"You're not of noble blood," I said,
"Your relatives are poor.
You don't hobnob with highbrows yet—
There's class before your door.
I see a line of limousines
Landaus, and smart coupes.
I'm not a prying person, but
It fills me with amaze."
"Oh, that's all right," my neighbor said,
A sad smile lit his face.
"That grand array you see belongs
To workers on my place.
That Packard is the carpenter's—
It's classy, you'll admit.
That Hudson with the glimmer there,
The plumber came in it.
The window washer's runabout
Is just across the street,
With orchids in the vases and
The fine upholstered seat."
"They're sure a classy lot" I said,