

Morning Oregonian

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AN AFFIRMATIVE POLICY NEEDED.

Russia having rejected the conditions proposed at Genoa, which stated the principles essential to international intercourse and commerce and by which the United States has attempted to proceed, Secretary Hughes was consistent in refusing to take part in the conference at the Hague, as it is merely an adjourned session of that at Genoa. The conference at Genoa was wrecked by the attempt to induce the rulers of Russia to accept the conditions of American right and of relations between nations on which civilized government and society are founded.

PREPARE FOR TRADE COMPETITION.

All who watch the course of events and the trend of business will agree with John Barrett that now is the time to make the adjustments that are essential to the American merchant marine and American place in world trade, for the next few years will be decisive. Though the Genoa conference has failed and though there is small prospect that anything will be accomplished at the Hague, the time is ripe for a new initiative.

WEARIED OF 'WEEKS.'

Signs of public impatience with the setting aside of certain weeks for the observance of particular virtues have been manifest of late. Praise-worthy as the purpose of each has been, from "clean-up week" to "music week," their frequency had the not unatural effect of causing disinterest. There was a surfeit of such arbitrary arrangements of time.

CHILD LABOR LAWS.

In declaring the federal child labor law unconstitutional, the supreme court has not only said that the purpose is good or bad; that is not a court's function. It declares that the constitution does not give congress power to pass such a law. The evident purpose was not to raise revenue by taxing the products of child labor, but to deprive the state of a power which the constitution left to the states.

THOSE WHO COME AND GO.

The average citizen of New York little realizes what takes place near him and never knows that in some sections, right beneath him, men and machinery are at work day and night building gigantic tunnels to carry water and transport people to and fro under the rivers," says E. P. Murphy, a civil engineer of Gotham, who is at the Multnomah. "Now there is talk of extending the city of New York out into the harbor. Under one street there are three tunnels, one under the other, to carry people between New York and Brooklyn, while at another place there is, way below ground, a large tunnel for city water and transport people to and fro under the rivers," says E. P. Murphy, a civil engineer of Gotham, who is at the Multnomah.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry. A FEW nights ago the district attorney held school for the election officials. So popular did his night classes prove that overflow meetings had to be arranged. It gave some of the judges and clerks of the boards an excellent opportunity to air their views on the subject of election procedure.

A COUNTY IN THE RED.

When the skillful transfer of money from one fund to another was accomplished at the courthouse a short while ago, it was suggested that the device might tide the general fund over the primaries to the political satisfaction of all who love to be bunched. Now Mr. Holman, of the county board of commissioners, points out triumphantly that only last Saturday there was a balance in every one of the five county funds, thereby compelling to shatter the report that county finances are in distress.

GENIUSES AND COMPLIMENTS.

Time was, or so tradition paints the scene, when genius toiled in a lonely attic and made friends with mice. The most forsaken of men was the poet—forever misunderstood. True, they brought wreaths to his resting place, when he had done with rhyme, but in the cold reality of life itself his heart never tingled to a friendly word.

WHO WASHES HIS SHIRT?

There was a famous campaign in Oregon, years ago, where the issue hinged on the momentous question as to where the candidates for governor had their shirts washed. It was conclusively shown that one of the candidates washed in the electric washbasin—except on state occasions, and the garment was fashioned in a home laundry by his wife; and certain defeat was in sight for him until it was learned that the opposing candidate patronized a Chinese laundry in the general district.

DESPERATE STRAITS.

I used to think that men were wise; I placed profound reliance on common sense and an enterprising. And politics and science. I used to think that love and law were things that really mattered; and then along came Bernard Shaw and these fellows were shattered. I used to think that by and by the nations would be willing. The ways of peace a while to try. And leave off war and killing. I fondly fancied I foresaw. Odi hatreds all forsaken; And then along came Bernard Shaw and proved me quite mistaken.

More Truth Than Poetry.

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