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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1906.

HAMILTON ONCE MORE.

In his strictures upon The Oregonian's estimate of Alexander Hamilton's abilities as a statesman, Mr. N. A. Peery begins with a charge of unfairness. The Oregonian remarked that "of all constructive statesmen that America has produced, Hamilton was incomparably the greatest." Mr. Peery rejoins that only a biased mind could make such an assertion. He then proceeds to find fault with one and another of Hamilton's ideas, quite unaware, apparently, that Washington's illustrious Secretary of the Treasury might be a very great constructive statesman, notwithstanding the misfortune that his opinions upon the structure and powers of government do not please Mr. Peery. There are many people in the world who would not care to dwell in St. Peter's, at Rome. Does their preference of some other residence prove that Michelangelo was not the greatest of architects? Few housewives would wish to ornament their kitchens with the frieze of the Parthenon; does this discredit the pre-eminence of Phidias in sculpture?

The question at issue is not whether Hamilton's theory of government pleases Mr. Peery or anybody else, but whether his ideas, if adopted, would have formed a durable and powerful nation. The fact is that Hamilton's principles, so far as they were embodied in the Constitution, have actually proved to be the unifying and prepotent element. Jefferson was not a member of the constitutional convention, but his political ideas were represented there. These ideas were of two sorts, one pernicious, the other salutary. In so far as Jefferson believed in abolishing class government and lodging political power in the people, his thought was true and its historical outcome beneficial. But in so far as he believed in a nerveless and impotent central government, his thought was false in logic and has worked baneful effects ever since the Constitution was adopted. Jefferson's disastrous fallacy was that a strong central government is inconsistent with popular rule. As a matter of fact, popular rule is impossible without a strong government. This statement may startle Mr. Peery, but it is almost self-evident as soon as we stop to think what the phrase "strong government" really means. Some of Mr. Peery's remarks suggest a painful doubt whether he is quite clear upon this matter himself, for he says: "If strength were the chief aim to be sought in government, this may be found in the absolute monarchies of the world." In Turkey, for example, or among the cannibal tribes, where despotism is absolute. In fact, Mr. Peery, like many other hazy thinkers, confounds absolutism with strength. The absolute monarchies of the present day are the weakest governments in the world. They are weak in three directions. They fail to enforce their wills upon their subjects; they fail to keep the peace among those subjects; and they fail to hold their own against other nations. Russia has an absolute, Japan a constitutional, government. Which is the stronger both at home and abroad? Which is the more effective instrument for promoting prosperity and justice among its subjects? A strong government is not necessarily lawless or tyrannical. The strength which Hamilton advocated and Jefferson opposed had its very essence in the predominance of law. Hamilton never advocated absolutism, but Jefferson did advocate principles of disintegration which ended in civil war.

Hamilton said that the British government was at that time the best in the world. Mr. Peery quotes this as a reproach, but he will find no respectable authority to deny its sheer truth. The British government was the best in the world—incomparably the best. It was not only the best in the world at that time, but it was the best that mankind had ever enjoyed in any age or country. It had faults grievous and patent, but it had eliminated feudalism; free speech prevailed; the writ of habeas corpus safeguarded personal liberty and Parliament had for a hundred years enjoyed undisputed supremacy over the royal prerogative. Compare it with the French government of the same period; compare it with the petty despotisms of Germany; compare it with the stern cruelty of Roman dominion or the slaveholding oligarchies of Greece. The British government in the eighteenth century was the admiration and envy of the world. Patriots in all lands looked to it as an ideal. Voltaire, driven from his own country, found an asylum in England and wrote immortal praises of English liberty. The wretched Huguenots fleeing from torture at home were safe on British soil. England never has yielded a political exile to a tyrant, nor a religious fugitive to his persecutors. Hamilton did well to admire the British government.

That government furnished the constitution-makers with a stable foundation for their work. The alterations they made were improvements for the most part, though the verdict of history on some of them is still doubtful. What candid observer can say positively that our Senate is an advance in character, ability or integrity upon the British House of Lords? Who is prepared to assert that Hamilton was wrong in wishing the executive's veto power greatly increased? The strong present tendency in our polity is to exalt the executive and diminish or eliminate the power of legislative bodies, just as Hamilton desired. He deeply distrusted those bodies, and history has justified him.

Hamilton undoubtedly stated his views to the convention in extreme form, just as his opponents did, in order to have something left after the inevitable compromise. Nearly every clause in the Constitution is a compromise, it is well known, when both parties yielded something. Hamilton, like the other members, asked more than he expected or really wished, in order to get what he thought essential. Franklin did the same. Hamilton's expressions of dissatisfaction with the Constitution in its final form were no more open than Franklin's, and not half so violent as Patrick Henry's.

THE COUNCIL AND GAS.

In the circular letter which the Portland Gas Company has spread broadcast over the city appears the following paragraph:

> The Portland Gas Company requests the Mayor of the City of Portland to appoint a joint committee from the Council and Executive Board with authority to investigate as fully as they may deem proper, not only the conduct of its business, but all other causes of complaint, and make its report thereon.

The 14,000 consumers of gas in Portland may well hope that Mayor Lane will do nothing of the kind. An investigation undertaken under such auspices would not command the public confidence. Mayor Lane has heretofore manifested no inclination whatever to call the gas company to account for its many transgressions. On the contrary, he has shown decided partiality toward the influential owners of that corporation, and they count with certainty on his favor and continued good will. It is quite in keeping with the public-be-damned attitude of the gas company that it should attempt to prescribe the terms on which it should be investigated. "Investigated," indeed.

If the Portland Gas Company is to be investigated, it should be by the City Council. The Council is the body that has to do with public service corporations. It is the body in which real control of such corporations is vested by the charter and by custom, and the Mayor has not a great deal to do with them, except under direction of the Council; nor has the Executive Board. If the Portland Gas Company is to have the conduct of its affairs officially inquired into, it should be by the City Council, acting through a committee named by it. Under present conditions any other investigation would be farcical.

WASHINGTON'S WHEAT CONVENTION.

The wheat convention held at Pullman, Wash., last week brought to the attention of farmers and all others connected with the industry a great many features of interest and value. It not only enabled buyers and producers to meet on common ground, and discuss their mutual troubles and advantages, but it brought out much that was of value to all who are in any way connected with the industry. For years the farmer has chafed under the belief that he was not getting the best possible results for his labor and capital. Political demagogues and curbstone grain brokers have taken advantage of this dissatisfaction and have endeavored to convince growers that their lack of complete success was due to the machinations of exporters, warehousemen or railroads. Very little emphasis was ever laid on the glaring fact that a large share of the trouble was of a nature that could be avoided or nullified by more care on the part of the farmer in cultivating his soil and harvesting and marketing his crop.

An excellent tribute to the class of farming that is returning the best results was paid by Samuel Glasgow, a Spokane miller, to J. F. Frye, a Lincoln County farmer. "Mr. Frye," said he, "has been growing wheat for more than twenty years, and in all that time he has never had to seek a buyer, but the buyers have always sought him, and have paid him a premium over the regular market price." It developed during the discussion that Mr. Frye, through careful cultivation and selection and treating of the best seed wheat, always produced a good crop, absolutely free from smut or any other foreign material. Mr. Frye explained in detail to his farmer friends how this result was accomplished, and there was nothing in the method of procedure which could not be followed to a corresponding degree of success by any of the other farmers present.

From the figures presented by the experts of the State College, it seems quite clear that the annual losses of the farmers by the smut evil amount to millions of dollars, and yet the remedy for the evil is simple, and there was abundant testimony to prove that losses from this source would cease if ordinary care were exercised in treating the seed wheat. Now that the wheatgrowers have had conclusive testimony as to the cause and the remedy for smut, not only from experts who have made most searching study of the matter, but from men of their own calling, a more determined effort will undoubtedly be made to eliminate the trouble and loss. Substitution of the elevator system of storage and shipment for the present grain-bag method was discussed at great length, and, while the present method is naturally a very expensive one, until steamers take the place of sailing vessels in our grain trade, shipment of wheat in bulk will be confined to stock used by the mills.

The attempt of ex-Grain Commissioner Reed to stir up animosity between the growers and the exporters was the only unpleasant feature of the meeting, and, while Mr. Reed in his paper set forth some very interesting facts, they were overwhelmed by the high coloring and open misrepresentation he made of existing conditions in the exporting business. The exporters are in the business to make all that is possible out of it, but, with competition as keen as it now is, and has been for many years, such extravagant profits as Mr. Reed asserts are made at the expense of the farmers are simply impossible. No better evidence of the truth of this statement is necessary than the fact that Mr. Reed, himself a grain man of much experience, and with plenty of capital, is apparently unable to compete with the exporters he is abusing. If there was the enormous margin of profit in handling wheat which he claims there is, he would be quick to avail himself of it.

The first wheat convention will open up a line of thought for the men engaged in the industry, and the good work done at Pullman will not bear fruit in its fullness until later. That great good has been accomplished, however, was demonstrated beyond argument, and President Bryan and his efficient agricultural experts, who were largely responsible for the success of the meeting, are entitled to the most sincere thanks of all classes in any way interested in the production and marketing of the greatest wealth-producer in the Pacific Northwest. The Washington Wheat Convention is a fixed annual event, and it is well that it is so.

FOR A UNITED OREGON.

The joint convention of the Oregon Development League and the Oregon Press Association, held under the auspices and in the rooms of the Portland Commercial Club, brought together thoughtful and representative men from every section of this state. The active members of the club have devoted themselves from the beginning until the close of these two conventions to the comfort and entertainment of their guests, and it was remarked Friday and Saturday, both by the visitors and the residents of Portland, that this gathering emphasizes the fact that Oregon is united in its effort for betterment and development as never before.

At both sessions of the joint conventions, held Friday and Saturday morning, there were present many of the best-known men of this state, while the two afternoon sessions of the Oregon Press Association probably accomplished more in the matter of getting the leading editors of the state together in a business way and in their work for the development of their individual communities and the state as a whole than all former meetings of that association.

At the joint conventions, as well as at the meeting of the editors, there was one sentiment dominant at all times, and that was a united Oregon and the elimination of every feeling but one—that Oregon from the Pacific Coast to the Idaho line and from the Columbia River to the southern boundary of the state was to be made known, not only to the homeseeker and investor, but the traveler who desires to see the choicest scenery and enjoy the most invigorating climate to be found anywhere in the United States. Every man and woman in attendance had something good to say of the state as a whole, and especially of their own community. It was a lovefeast, but at the same time a practical gathering, in which every representative had something to say regarding the especially attractive features of his town, county or community.

In fact, never has occurred in Oregon since its birth a gathering better calculated to bring the people of the state closer together than the two conventions which adjourned last night.

INVESTIGATING MR. TAFT.

The report comes from Washington that the Senate committee on interoceanic canals is about to investigate everything and everybody connected with the Panama enterprise. Even President Roosevelt, it is hinted, will not be exempt from this searching inquisition. All his misdeeds, as well as those of Mr. Taft, Mr. Shonts, Engineer Stevens, and the rest, are to be laid bare. This interoceanic canal committee is admirably constituted to investigate such men as Roosevelt and Taft. The character of its members guarantees in advance the absolute wisdom and impartiality of its findings.

Consider the noble names upon that imperishable roll. Thomas C. Platt, of New York, is one of them, who for so many years has faithfully drawn a Senator's salary while all his time and energy have gone into New York politics and the United States Express Company. Platt, it is reported, is deeply scandalized to think that Shonts should draw a salary as a railroad president while he serves the Government on the Isthmus. Why this is any worse than Platt's own little steal has not been explained, but the reason is sure to come out under the scrutinizing gaze of New York's senior Senator.

John F. Dryden, of New Jersey, the man who founded industrial insurance in America, is another member. He is also well fitted by long and intimate experience to investigate graft. "Set a thief to catch a thief" is a motto which applies to the Panama Canal as well as to smaller matters. A man who knows how to make workingmen pay twice or thrice as much for life insurance as it costs the rich understands perfectly how to detect Mr. Taft in his nefarious misdeeds. Mr. Dryden's experience in promoting insurance upon the lives of new-born babies also qualifies him to look tenderly after the welfare of the negro canal-diggers.

Their welfare is one of the chief cares of this committee. Mr. Poultney Bigelow says the negroes on the Isthmus are abused and slandered by the white officers. It seems, therefore, almost providential that another of the committeemen is Arthur P. Gorman. His friendship for the black race is well known. He has just failed in an effort to disfranchise all the negroes in Maryland. Naturally, therefore, their sufferings in Panama touch his feelings deeply. Mr. Gorman also has had long and intimate personal knowledge of graft. If it exists, or if there is any chance for it to exist, he will find it out.

Truly a lovely investigating committee, and its motives are quite as lovely as its personnel. The principal one is by hook or crook, by fact or falsehood, by fair or foul endeavor, to bring to light something to make Mr. Taft unavailable as a Presidential candidate. The Senate cares nothing more about the canal than it does about other public interests. It cares not how much public money is wasted or stolen, though it greatly prefers to say who shall do the stealing. But it does care who shall be the next President, and Taft is entirely too much like Roosevelt to be agreeable to the conscript fathers. Moreover, divers of that charmed circle cherish Presidential ambitions themselves. Hence a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together to besmirch and ruin Taft.

But there are other motives. Corporation interests are bitterly hostile to the canal, and those interests dominate the Senate. They cannot kill the canal enterprise outright, but they can bedevil the President, they can worry his employes till one after another resigns in disgust, they can send persons like Poultney Bigelow to disseminate false reports, and they can hamper and delay the work by "investigations," like the one now proposed.

Well-informed persons have no fear of the outcome of this investigation, so far as Taft or Roosevelt is concerned. Mr. Shonts has probably, through impatience of red tape, made a mistake or two, but, such as they were, they have been rectified. If the committee brings to light anything besides malicious tittle-tattle and deliberate falsehood, they will surprise the public extremely and themselves most of all. They know very well that what is wrong on the Isthmus is the result of pernicious Senatorial meddling, and that the Administration is exerting every power it possesses to push the work and care for the workers.

PORTLAND AND CHICAGO.

The Chicago Tribune, an independent, high-toned and fearless newspaper, has an editorial article on "Our Incapable Detectives." "The Chicago detective force is worthless," says the Tribune, and it remarks, too:

> One atrocious crime after another is committed here, but the detectives do not seem to have the least success in apprehending the criminals. They do not succeed even where they have a plain trail to follow. They do not display the average degree of intelligence which is noted in the men who are in the business in New York and other American cities. . . . .
>
> A detective force cannot prevent murders, but if it is fit for anything it can arrest most of the murderers. The Chicago force is unable to do that. Usually, when it catches a murderer, it is because he gives himself up.

The Tribune advises the Mayor to reorganize the force and to put a capable man in charge of the detectives. No doubt it is hard to find a man who is trustworthy and experienced and can enforce the respect of his subordinates and compel discipline and industry among them. It cannot be done by adopting a fanciful notion that because the applicant doesn't know anything about the police business he must be just the man for the job.

The trouble in Chicago is not unique. There they have had murders and all sorts of crime, and the detectives do next to nothing. Here in Portland we have a nightly exhibition of the inefficiency of our detective force in a sensational procession of burglaries, holdups, assaults and occasional murders. The record of criminal achievement by unrestrained highwaymen, thieves and other malefactors is appalling, worse, we think, than for many years; the record of achievement by the detectives and police is absolutely nothing, with the exception of two alleged murderers caught through the volunteer activity of one or more stool-pigeons.

Mayor Lane's administration is concerning itself mightily just now about whether one or two prominent "hotels" in Portland are really hotels; and meanwhile no citizen is safe on the streets after night, and none can sleep in his own house in security from the invasion of a burglar and a possible murderer.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

King Edward, following that precedent which in Great Britain is as strong as law and is less often disputed, dissolved Parliament, under the advice and at the request of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the new Premier.

Ever since the famous split-off of Joseph Chamberlain from the Unionist government, the big Parliamentary majority that steadily supported Mr. Balfour melted away. Vainly Mr. Balfour tried to induce the belief that when he blessed Mr. Chamberlain, at the starting of his crusade for disguised protection, he did not mean it. Vainly he tried to make by-elections turn on any other issue than that of free trade. In vain he protested that he is the leader of the Unionist party, not Mr. Chamberlain, and that "fiscal matters," as he calls them, are not vital to the programme on which he invites the people to return him to power. The electorate of the three kingdoms know better—no red herring will draw them from the trail, and to settle the great question if the nation shall change its place before the world on free trade—on that issue, and no other, the mass of the voters will act.

On the conduct of two of the great departments of the state, and two only, will the nation be loth to change. Foreign affairs, by general consent, have been more than safe in the hands of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour. How much of the credit is due to the King in person will never be fully known. If the late Foreign Secretary has been ready to follow the King's lead, and the ship has been safely steered in very rough waters in consequence, the nation is the gainer. And Sir Edward Grey, the new Secretary, from all that is known of him, will be as likely to follow good advice.

The navy also, by the like common consent of friends and enemies, has been most competently and wisely managed. This said, all is said. The new government is pledged to work havoc in the policy their predecessors have followed in finance, in the education department, in the army, and in many things in the home and colonial offices. This means that, though the mass of voters will act on the free-trade as the dominating issue at stake, there will be a considerable minority, especially of the clergy and those influenced by them, who will fight to the death to maintain existing law in these other matters. While not venturing on prophecy, it will be no surprise if Mr. Balfour and his supporters shall poll a heavy vote in the counties and small towns. On the other hand, if the Liberals shall succeed in keeping the ghost of Irish home rule well buried, the large cities of England, all Scotland and South Wales will probably stand solidly by free trade.

Before the corrupt practices act was passed, English general elections were a stink in the nostrils of high Heaven. Hardly a crime on the statute book but there found its occasion. Riot, drunkenness, violence, bribery, perjury, undue influence, ranged from one end of the land to the other—and feared no after account and punishment.

But never was repression by force of straight law more instantly evident. The enactment was simplicity itself. Candidates were made directly responsible for the acts of their subordinate agents to the last man. Illegal acts of even one agent and even in otherwise trivial details, vitiated the election. And inquiries by the court were local. No sitting in London and bringing reluctant or too willing witnesses to hang round the city waiting to testify. The Judge of the High Court opened his session in the city complained of, where acts were patent and witnesses plentiful. On his report the decision to upset or confirm the election turned.

It took but a very short experience to close for good and all the old, foul, chapter and to open a new, clean page. Excited the elections will be; platform and wordy violence will abound. Newspapers will accuse, denounce, defend to their hearts' content. But the streets will not "run blood" nor the jails be crowded. Nor will one man's vote be for sale, nor be sold, in any such fashion as to catch the eye of interested observers, of whom there will be no lack. And the results will be simple, clear, definite.

If the unlikely should occur, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his supporters should fail of majority in the aggregate of returns, not of votes, there will be a prompt reversal of the recent change and the new Parliament will restore the nation to its former allegiance to Mr. Balfour and his friends. Otherwise, the old and tried free trade system will be maintained, the new men will be seated firmly in the saddle and their programme of reforms will be played out to the bitter end.

HOW TO GO TO YELLOWSTONE PARK.

The Oregonian gives today on page 48 full details of its great Yellowstone National Park trip contest. Twenty-three young ladies are for fifteen days to enjoy as its guests the hospitality of The Oregonian. Under its direction and at its expense they are to behold the wonders and beauties of that amazing wonderland. The Oregonian pledges itself to do its full duty as host, and that is to make these fifteen days an epochal period in the life of every one of its twenty-three guests.

These twenty-three young women are to be chosen by ballot by their friends, neighbors and acquaintances. The Northwest territory has been divided into twenty-three districts, and one candidate shall be chosen from each district. The districts have been so carefully arranged that any person living in the most remote part of Oregon, Washington or Idaho—if within the general boundaries placed for this contest—may have an equal chance with another candidate in the metropolis.

There will be no favorites. The choice will be left absolutely to the people in the communities where the various candidates reside. If the people of any place, urban or rural, eligible to enter this contest, desire to give a deserving young lady a memorable vacation outing, they have their chance by studying and subscribing to the terms of The Oregonian Yellowstone contest. The Oregonian pays the expenses and makes all other arrangements. All its readers have to do is to name the twenty-three young ladies.

HOW TO GIVE IN CHARITY.

The question, "Is there such a thing as giving wisely to the thriftless?" is one that has often perplexed benevolence and forced a negative answer from the reluctant lips of pity. It has, indeed, been found many times blessed to give to those who, through sickness or misfortune, have found themselves temporarily without means to help themselves. But it has also been found that "first aid" to persons of this class, coming in the form of judicious relief for present necessities and followed by opportunity for self-help, is all that is required, and that this aid is gratefully received and intelligently and self-helpfully applied.

But what of the class to whom first aid is the first step toward further pauperism? Who eat the bread of charity and merely whine for more? Who wear garments two sizes too large for them—sleeves sloppily turned back, trousers clumsily rolled up and dresses dragging about the feet—because such articles were given to them in this form and the mother of the family was too shiftless, too ignorant or too incompetent to make them over? There is not a charitably disposed woman in this city who has attempted, in a spirit of kindness, to help this class of people, that has not been chagrined to find her effort futile and her bounty practically wasted.

The remedy for this—or such remedy as can be applied—may, it is said, be found in systematized giving. To this end the City Board of Charities desires that all relief shall be dispensed under the direction of its officers, who are paid to do the work, and by long experience are qualified to do it acceptably. Yet this public has heard much that, if taken even with large allowance, leads it to believe that this organization is at times unnecessarily severe in its dealings with worthy people who ask assistance; that it is very slow in giving aid, and that the money that comes into its treasury is for the most part dispensed in salaries.

As opposed to indiscriminate giving, discriminate giving thus supervised may be worldly wise, but it is held to fall far short of the purpose which the name of the organization implies. Still it is so easy, as stated by a correspondent, to give the wrong sort of help, that it must be conceded that skillful and tactful investigation should precede the bestowal of money and supplies upon the needy. This community is not bound to support or even to aid a thriftless, dissipated man and an easy-going, slatternly woman, to maintain even in a semblance of comfort a yearly increasing brood of children. The time will come when it will utterly refuse to do so, and when relief for suffering humanity, as represented by the misbegotten children of such a pair will be provided in quite another and much more effective way.

It would not be a hopeless task to provide the comforts of life to the children of irresponsibility and unthrift that are now with us, though the task would be a formidable one, if the supply were stopped. Lawgivers will in time designate this way. In the meantime, whether the public gives discriminately or indiscriminately, pauperism will increase rather than diminish by the multiplication of the poor, who belong to that class that is literally always with us.

A pleasing feature that has been introduced into the literature and educative life of Oregon within the past few years is the study of bird life, carried on in the woods in the brooding season and made accessible to libraries, schools and the general public by means of the camera, stereopticon display and books embodying the findings, literally speaking, of careful students of bird life. Rev. William Lord, for several years pastor of the First Unitarian Church in this city, was an enthusiast in this study, and his observations were printed and bound in a little book which is used in auxiliary reading in the public schools. Mr. Will Finley, a young man who pursued his bird studies for several years in the wooded environments of this city, is another man who is authority on the birds of Oregon, their habits and their usefulness. The latter phase Mr. Finley dwells upon particularly in describing the haunts and habits of the barn owl, the red-tailed hawk and other birds commonly regarded as the enemies of the farmer instead of his friends. Diffusion of knowledge upon these matters among children is commended as at once interesting and useful.

Time was when the name of John C. Breckenridge was familiar in every section of the country. It stood for a slaveholding Vice-President of the United States, breathing secession and abetting rebellion; as a candidate for the Presidency it rang throughout the South and touched the Pacific Coast, and especially Oregon, by its association with that of Joseph Lane, candidate for the Vice-Presidency; representing Southern views, it was heard throughout the bitter dissensions of the reconstruction era. But so quickly silenced is the voice of man, so ephemeral his fame, that when, a few days ago, a man died at Yonkers, N. Y., having gone thither from Lexington for his health, and it was announced that J. Cabel Breckenridge had passed away, the past yielded up slowly the name of John C. Breckenridge in order that identity might be given in the local news to the decedent, who was his son.

Captain Roald Amundsen, whose ship Gjoa is ice-locked in Dease Strait, intends, it is said, to return to the Arctic next Summer and bring her out by way of Behring Strait. In this event he will have completed the Northwest passage—a feat that, after all, seems a useless one, since no great depth of water was found, and it is impossible to mark a channel in an ice-blocked strait. There will, therefore, be nothing practical or useful in the discovery. There is nothing new in it, in fact, since there has been no doubt that water underlies the ice of the Arctic continuously. A clear channel through these waters will, while present conditions on earth prevail, be blocked by the grim embargo of Winter.

The body of Thomas Nast, the great cartoonist of an eventful era in American history, is on the way to New York from Guayaquil, via Panama. Nast died many months ago, while serving as American Consul at Guayaquil—a poor political job to which he had been assigned because there seemed to be nothing else left for him to do. He was a cartoonist—not a politician—and the attempt to assume a role for which he was unfitted lost to him his hold upon the admiration of the people to whose amusement he had catered for a number of years with his clever pencil. His body will reach New York in due time and the green curtain will be rung down on the last act in the drama of the life of Thomas Nast.

Pope Pius X is democratic. The faithful may see him at any appropriate time. He loves youth. Throughout Rome he is organizing athletic clubs. He hates shams, therefore he has begun a campaign to rid Rome of unattached priests who disgrace the church by begging. He is not on the best of terms with the college of cardinals, but is close to his bishops. He is an intensely human pope, interesting from every point of view. His personality is well set forth in an article by James Gibbons Huneker, the well-known New York writer, who recently had an audience at the Vatican with his holiness. It is published on page 30 of today's Oregonian.

The decision rendered by Judge Cleland to the effect that a wife in this state can convey her separate property by her sole deed is the recognition of a principle of "woman's rights" for which there has been contention for half a century. It is well known that Oregon laws are more favorable to the property and personal rights of women than are the laws of many states that claim a much older civilization. This is in accordance with the fact that old, conservative communities are slow to change their customs, either social or legal, while the Western people are less committed to precedent and habit.

Chief Campbell is strictly within the line of his duty in ordering an inspection of a building in this city in which several fires have broken out within a short time, endangering life. It is not prudent to ignore imperfections in a building in which a number of people live and sleep, and trust to luck that nothing will happen. Competent inspection will readily decide whether this structure is safe or unsafe. If the latter, it should be reconstructed or condemned; if the former, guests can sleep in it unvexed by dreams of cremation or speelers of property going up in smoke and fire.

Dr. Endicott Peabody, of Groton School, who knows football from a to izzard, contributes to the current number of Harper's Weekly an article warmly defending the game itself, but condemning the spirit in which it is now played. He would cure the fault. This, he declares, is largely due to professional coaches, who teach unfair methods and dishonest tricks. Rid colleges of these coaches and you have taken the first step toward getting the right spirit into the game.

The matter of acquiring the Forestry building by the city has been definitely settled. James J. Hill will pay for having a concrete foundation placed under the quaint building; the city has acquired the site at a very reasonable figure; an exhibit of forestry of considerable value goes with the purchase or donation, and the deal is satisfactory to all concerned. Here's to James J. Hill! May he live long and be 'appy!

To the multitude of men and women who, for various reasons, are not impelled to attend divine worship in churches, we commend the sermon "The Impartial God and His Love," by Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, published on page 37 of this issue of The Oregonian.

And now the struggle between Gould's Pacific Railroad and Harriman's company over right of way through Oakland, Cal., has developed into a chess game. This is reassuring. Suppose it had turned into a football contest, as feared a week ago?

The New York concern which said it could cure any disease and even raise the dead is in the hands of the authorities. We suppose there is no way out of it but to fall back on life insurance.

Rogers now complains of the flippancy and frivolity of the investigation against him in the Standard Oil cases. The jolly Rogers is at his jokes again.

THE SILVER LINING.

Many a young man loves an heiress for himself alone—what's the matter with you?

* * *

The wedding was beautiful. It beggared description and her father.

* * *

Since you give me permission to be quite candid with you, to be quite candid I think I'd better not.

* * *

The worst thing about dismal people who are gloomy at the prospect of going to heaven is that they don't go.

* * *

A connoisseur is a man who pays more for second-hand articles than he would have to give for a new one.

* * *

There is no simpler, purer or more rational life under the sun than that of the middle class American in his normal condition. Outside of the maelstrom of "machine" politics or Wall-street speculation—the twin curses of the country—he can be high principled and honorable both in business and in private life. The 70 per cent of Americans who live outside of the great cities eat the bread of honest industry and have no wish for any other. They know nothing of "graft" and "tainted money" except what they read in the newspapers. If they were inclined to be lax, the American woman is there to brace them up. She continues to be what she always has been—a great moral power.

* * *

The game of divorce is not worth the scandal.

* * *

The Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, of Tenderloin fame, thus comments on the Standard Oil officials after contemplating their attitude in the Missouri investigation:

> I have read the account of the proceedings. It is a pitiful scene which no honest or self-respecting man could have been a party to. It is a confession of guilt—a self-indictment. I am shocked that the Rockefellers and their associates have lent themselves to such a farce. These are the men who are endowing our universities and educational schools from which our young men are graduating each year. It marks a depth of self-admitted degradation and crime-stained methods that is appalling—and in procedure aside from criminality it is contemptible.

And yet Henry H. Rogers and his crowd go right on eating regularly. The world doesn't stop or break loose. There isn't any second crucifixion, or anything. Something is wrong somewhere.

* * *

Good News From Beyond the Styx.

Readers of the latest issue of the Chambersburg Valley Spirit were somewhat startled on observing the following remarkable error in the arrangement of headlines:

BUT SMALL FIRE LOSS.

Record of Deaths in Greencastle During the Twelve Months Which Ended Dec. 31.

* * *

When a man in court refuses to answer a question because an honest answer would incriminate him, the jury, the lawyers and the judge are compelled to refrain from putting any construction upon his refusal. But people who are bound by no legal subterfuges are very apt to think that the refusal to testify incriminates him more than anything that he might say.

* * *

Dealer—This bird doesn't swear.

Customer—Then I won't take him; I want a good, healthy parrot.

* * *

His automobile is fast—occasionally—in the mud.

* * *

Help yourself to rain. Take all you want. You can wet everything here except your whistle free of charge.

* * *

He—Don't you think marriages are made in heaven?

She—Well, if all men were as slow as you, they'd have to be.

* * *

The librarians needn't bother; if a book is too improper to put in the library, it won't be necessary, anyway, for everybody has probably read it.

* * *

The anniversary of the engagement ought to be celebrated as well as the marriage, for it was the original cause of all the trouble.

* * *

Old English Saying:

Take out, then take in,
Bad luck will begin.
Take in, then take out,
Good luck comes about.

* * *

The Cook—I think stories of high life are so interesting.

The Maid—Yes, but the best ones are not fit to print.

* * *

Circumstantial evidence: The girl knew there were no young men at the hotel because all the hammocks were swung in such light places.

* * *

This is from W. J. Lampton:

Why, man,
It's a fraud!
He,
Charles E.
Norton, you know,
Willing to go
Joining ranks
With the cranks,
Anne
And Maud?—
Man,
It's a fraud!
Doctor, don't you fool yourself—
Take a drop to cool yourself
Ere you go and pool yourself
With those who advocate "the killing off of the hopelessly insane, hopelessly diseased and victims of accidents."

While there's life,
There is hope—
So go easy
With the dope!
Is it true humanity,
Is it good Christianity
Thus to cure insanity—
Snuffing reason's flickering flame
Flatter not your vanity—
Murder with urbanity
Is murder just the same.

Take the victim from the wreck,
Lay him on the shelf,
Stop the faint and failing breath—
Administer your "easy death"—
Just "give it to him in the neck";
But—suppose it were yourself!
While there's life
There is hope;
Then go easy
With the dope—

And, doctor, life will be easier, happier and better for you—and others—if you scurry back to the ways of classic Academe. Stick to Dante!

Effects of Heat.

Exchange.

Whether a body gains or loses weight on heating, or neither, is a problem of possible importance. A comparison of the attraction of two bodies at different temperatures can hardly be made, and Poynting, an English physicist, has tried the plan of weighing a body when cold and again when heated. With great care it was shown that the solid body weighing 308 grammes lost 0.003 of a milligramme on being heated from 15 degrees to 100 degrees C.