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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1907.

WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

Shall we ever again see the day when ministers will be the leaders of the Nation in moral reform? That they have largely lost this position, at least for the present, everybody admits. The spiritual regeneration which we have just experienced in this country was accomplished with little help and some notable hindrance from the pulpit. Conspicuous ecclesiastics, leaders of so-called Christian education, celebrated preachers, have come forward to apologize for crime on the ground that it was successful and to excuse the violation of the Commandments because it was helpful to certain kinds of business. Will this ever cease? Have the intellect and zeal of the sects definitely allied themselves with unrighteousness and made a perpetual contract with the powers of evil?

It cannot be thought so. Like other human institutions, the church has its periods of spiritual depression and exaltation. Sometimes it appears as the most enlivening of social forces, sometimes as the most retrogressive. Today the Protestant denominations are not unsympathetic with the spirit of the age, but they are too weak to make their sympathies tell sufficiently upon current history and the principal cause of their weakness is disintegration. The forces of disintegration began to work in Protestantism almost as soon as Luther preached the reformation. That great genius discerned the coming trouble and sought to forestall it by making the Scriptures an infallible guide to faith, to replace the vanished authority of tradition, pope and councils.

But his effort failed because the meaning of Scripture must be determined by human reason, and to the reason of each man it may mean something different. The hosts of Protestantism broke into wrangling sects. There were Baptists and Anabaptists in Britain, the Netherlands and northern Italy. There were Calvinists in France, Scotland and Switzerland. The Church of England cleaved away from the general Protestant movement and has continued ever since to hover uncertainly upon the outer skirts of Catholicism. The sects divided and subdivided upon points almost inconceivably minute and trifling and persecuted each other with unrelenting bitterness for differences of opinion which would appear ludicrous had not their influence upon the course of history been so tragic. Just how far we may depend upon the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide our conduct; just how to administer the rite of baptism; the exact part which faith plays in the office of salvation, as compared with good works; whether a man is regenerated instantaneously or gradually; how the church ought to be governed—all these matters and many others of incomparably less importance have divided Protestant Christians into warring factions and deferred indefinitely the success of their mission in the world.

As a unifying principle in religion, the written word has been a failure. Each text, each variant interpretation of a text, affords ground for a new schism. Protestant Christians have acknowledged this unfortunate weakness of their position more or less openly and have sought incessantly in recent years for some common ground of federation, if not complete union. But no such ground at first appeared. So long as the emphasis fell on their creeds they were doomed to disintegration and paralysis. Science, therefore, in attacking the foundations of the creeds, took the stage as their best friend, though they scarcely perceived it. When the creeds could no longer be believed, and when the higher criticism had disposed forever of the inerrancy of the Bible, Protestant Christianity seemed at first bereft of its strength. What had really happened, however, was the eradication of the principal cause of its weakness. In place of futile and divisive abstractions came the great principle of realism, which had already transformed modern literature and now victoriously invaded the realm of religion. The church, driven from the barren deserts of theology, found new life in the fertile problems of sociology. Its aim and mission were transferred from heaven to earth, and the solution of vital questions touching the life of man gave fruitful occupation to intellects which might have been wasted upon arid metaphysics. As the church begins to labor at a common definite task, its energies tend toward unity. Work instead of "works" becomes its watchword; and, while faith is by no means dead, its form is changed. Christian faith expends itself not upon intricate subtleties of doctrine, but upon the ideals and character of Jesus. It has been transformed into personal loyalty to the great Teacher. With realism for its animating principle, and loyalty to Jesus for its creed, the forces of Protestantism no longer find union an impossible dream. The work of coalition has begun in many directions. Only the other day three numerous bodies formed an organic union in Chicago, merging their futile differences in a common name. The dissent to their action was in itself a sign of encouragement, for it came from that part of the country which is most inaccessible to new ideas and most retrogressive both in politics and religion. The delegates from Mississippi and Louisiana declined to join the union because the proposed statement of belief made no mention of "sanctification following regeneration." How like the reverberation of a brazen pot these hollow words fall upon the modern ear! They tell of bygone times and forsaken modes of thought. The individual's regeneration and sanctification, whatever that may be, are something for himself to attend to; the church of today is occupied with his attitude toward social wrongs and his loyalty to the Prince of Peace.

ASHES OF HOPES.

This is what George Ade would call "the cold, gray dawn of the morning after." Yesterday was a strenuous day for many men whose number of alleged friends would make a total several times the enumeration of men, women and children of the city. Hope shone with the sun till the polls closed, and was not dispelled till the adding machines ceased their cold, metallic clicking. Then the candidates who found their hopes but a taste of salt, likewise found a bit of comfort in the words of the prophet Jeremiah: "Take ye heed every one of his neighbor and trust ye not in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with slanders."

It is not given in the Great Record that there were municipal elections in the sixth century before Christ; yet many of the words of the prophet have the sound of warning that comes from the partisan press and one must believe the politician went forth in those days pretty much as he does 25 centuries later. Else why should Jeremiah, some years before he set up his lamentations, "make a noise" like unto a present-day organ decrying its rival?

This is a day of woe and heartburning for the defeated candidates, not wholly for defeat, for that is the chance of battle; but for the realization that of all the men whose handclasp and promise were so freely given, many were the most cheerful and deceitful of liars. For figures do not lie and the votes that are not in the box cannot be counted. It but adds to the misery to realize that the men who threw him down will never be known by the prostrated one.

So the man who failed to get there can only ask himself: "Does it pay?" And being of necessity of the right temperament—else he would not be running—he will conclude that perhaps it does and hope the people will know him better the next time.

THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF PEACE.

A weak, good-nature, incapable of righteous wrath is, as President Roosevelt says, almost as unfortunate a mortal attribute as a willingness to do wrong. It is true that the first equipment or attribute usually keeps its possessor out of jail; but it contributes not infrequently to the delinquency of others, by overindulgence of their evil propensities. An illustration of this is seen every time a cringing woman appears before a police magistrate pleading for the release of her brutal husband and insisting that the bruises that are in evidence of his assault upon her with his brawny fists are the result of falling down stairs.

In the wider application, a nation incapable of righteous wrath would be incapable of maintaining the decent respect of mankind, even if it could maintain its place upon the map of a strenuous world, which, of course it could not. The statement that the person who has not got it in him to strive manfully against wrong will accomplish but little, for right needs no proof that ordinary observation does not readily furnish. Without the spirit and ability to resist aggression no individual can command respect and no nation can be great. With this reservation and upon this principle all peace negotiations must proceed.

TAINTED NEWS.

Municipal ownership of public utilities may be a good thing or it may be bad. The question has not yet been decided. People in this country are pretty generally of the opinion that we are too corrupt and too great blockheads to put it in successful practice even if it were excellent; but views on that point may change in course of time. We may ultimately convince ourselves that we are not greater boobies than other nations.

However that may be, the question of municipal ownership ought to be decided upon its merits and upon the facts, not upon false information. Collier's Weekly is printing a series of articles which disclose a systematic propaganda of prevarication in respect to the success of the experiments American cities have made in the ownership of gas and water works and street railroads. The propaganda is operated by a group of men who seduloously conceal their names. Of course they are persons who benefit by the private ownership of franchises and the robbery that too often goes with it. Their method is to send out dispatches which misrepresent the facts and get them published by hook or crook in reputable papers. Usually it is done by crook, that is, by deceiving the papers. The dispatches are plausible in tone and there is nothing about them to indicate their real nature and purpose.

In Collier's for May 4 there are several photographic reproductions of these deceptive news dispatches. One of them from Alabama gives an account of a convention which opposed Federal regulation of railroad rates. The truth about the matter was that the convention was dominated by a gang of railroad lawyers and the dispatch was paid for out of a railroad corruption fund. Another of these mendacious news items stated that the municipal water works of Lincoln, Neb., were a failure. The Commercial Club of Lincoln held a meeting to "repel and rebuke" the falsehood and sent out a denial to the press.

Everybody remembers that the railroads carried on a similar campaign when the question of regulating rates was before Congress. Its success was not encouraging, but the monopolists seem incapable of learning anything from experience. The people of this country have developed their brains to the point where they can think for themselves. They do not take their opinions ready-made from corporation lawyers, nor can they be permanently misled by faked reports of things which do not happen.

THOU ART THE MAN.

"And there came a traveler unto the rich man; and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him, but took the poor man's lamb and dressed it for the man that was come unto him." This the rich man did though he had exceeding many flocks and herds of his own, while the poor man had but the one ewe lamb "which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew together with him and with his children; it did eat of his own meat and drank of his own cup and lay in his bosom and was unto him as a daughter." Naturally when David the King, who was a man after God's own heart, heard this story from Nathan his anger was greatly kindled against the rich man; and he said to Nathan, "As my soul liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die. And Nathan said to David, 'Thou are the man.'" David was King over Israel. Nathan was a ragged old prophet, not any too tactful and sadly in want of a bath, as most prophets generally are. His beard was unkempt and probably populous, as Gibbon says the Emperor Julian's used to be. He was far from being a safe man and not very sane. At least he was not sane in the sense of Grover Cleveland and Judge Parker, for he accused evil in high places to its face, which is the last thing in the world a man would do who had a proper feeling for his own interest.

When it came to downright meanness David was near the limit. Uriah, one of his generals, had a pretty wife. David fell in love with her. He first betrayed the woman, whose dulcet name was Bath-Sheba, and then ordered his soldiers to desert Uriah in a hot battle and let him be killed. When Uriah was well out of the way he took Bath-Sheba into his harem. A very neat bit of tactics it was, showing a genius almost equal in its way to Mr. Harriman's. The ability which today exercises itself in capturing other people's money was in those old Bible times directed toward their wives. If wives are more valuable than money then civilization has advanced since David's time. If they are not, then it has retrograded. By virtue of an effort prolonged through some thousands of years we have finally made the poor man's family comparatively safe from the lust of the rich and powerful; shall we ever make his old age secure from neglect and penury? The Emperor William, whom our lovers of peace denounce for his militarism, has secured for every workingman in the German empire an old age of self-respecting independence. Our wiser statesmen let them perish in the gutter after they have spent their lives in making the rest of us wealthy. The tyrannical German government husbands the savings of the poor and pensions their old age; our government of the people, by the people and for the people exposes their savings to the rapacity of private bankers and delivers hoary indigence to the poorhouse and the jail.

It is a marvel that any workingman in this country manages to lay up a competence. The marvel arises, not because he lacks opportunity to earn, but because he is preyed upon by so many parasites. We pass by the companies which sell him bad insurance for ten times its value, the savings banks which are founded for no purpose except to fail, and the trusts which furnish poisonous milk to his children for two prices and levy blood money upon his fuel, his bread and his clothing. What we have in mind to speak of now is a more exasperating and meaner species of robbery. It is that cunning iniquity which compels the workingman and the small consumer to found universities and endow magnificent hospitals. If the men who build these grand establishments did it out of their own means nobody could complain, for education and medicine are fine in themselves. If the people who contribute the money for them got the glory it would not be so bad. But they do not. The money is taken without our consent, by a sort of illicit ingenuity; and the whole credit of the foundation goes to the robbers. Thus the great endowment of the Chicago university was extorted from the plain people of the country in small sums and every new gift to that institution is made up by new levies. But who ever thinks of praising the men who earn the money? When Mr. Rockefeller wishes to make a gift to education he lays a tax upon the Nation to raise the funds. He spares of his own flock and of his own herd and takes the poor man's lamb. The way he uses the money may be good, but the way he gets it is not good. The same thing is true of the vast sums which we glorify Mr. Carnegie for giving to the cause of peace, to libraries and to schools. They do not come out of his own pocket. They are extorted from the people by the power to levy taxes which he possesses or possessed. Carnegie and Rockefeller are no more entitled to praise for their donations than Congress is when it appropriates public funds. They are less entitled, for Congress acts openly and with the consent of the taxpayers, while our benevolent despots act clandestinely and without our consent. In adulating them we glorify hypocrisy. Mr. Carnegie's exertions in the cause of international peace are supported by high-handed robbery. The Czar of Russia poses as the advocate of peace while he slaughters his helpless subjects by the thousand; Carnegie finances a peace congress upon the fruits of rapine.

But the great magnates of monopoly are not alone in their guilt. Who that draws a dividend from Standard Oil stock can say that he is innocent of its lawbreaking? It takes a good deal of scrubbing to cleanse the hands of a person who knowingly profits by crime even if he is not active in committing it. Whoever enjoys benefits from a fraudulent franchise condones the iniquity that taints it. Worse still, he is an enlisted recruit to defend the iniquity and encourage its repetition. Whoever holds stock in a company that practices bribery incurs the moral guilt of the bribery, no matter how innocent he may be under the law. It is impossible for the receiver of stolen goods to clear himself by saying that he did not himself pick pockets or break into a house. It is sufficient for his condemnation in the forum of ethics that he has benefited by the crime. Had we a Nathan to go about today accusing the guilty as he of old did the wicked king of the Jews, which of us would escape his indictment. "Thou art the man?"

QUEER ECONOMICS.

The Kansas City Journal has earned a leather medal. It has compressed into a single column more bad logic and more false economics than any paper ever did before. The feat was achieved in an attempt to prove that the Government ought not to regulate the corporations. From the bouquet of fallacies which the Journal presents it is possible to cull only one or two of the choicest, but they will suffice to show what the rest are.

"A street railway is no more truly a public utility than a barber shop or a shoe store." "The law has exactly the same right to regulate advertising rates or hotel rates as it has to regulate railroad rates or gas rates." If a ten-year-old schoolboy should make such a booby of himself as to write these sentences in a composition he would have to year a duncecap. The Kansas City Journal prints them seriously as the best it can furnish in the way of economic doctrine. Its mental state is probably hopeless, but we are willing to attempt some enlightenment. One might begin by remarking that a shoe store is generally kept by a natural person instead of one created by the law for that particular purpose. The shoe man holds no franchise giving him exclusive rights; he does not enjoy the power of eminent domain; he has no monopoly in the public streets; he may not tear up the pavement, thrust vehicles out of his way as a streetcar corporation may, nor is the public compelled to patronize him whether it likes or not. Everybody must ride on the cars; everybody must use gas. Above all, everybody who does any business must use the railroads. There is a choice among shoe stores. In general there is no choice among gas companies, streetcars or railroads.

The corporation which owns a railroad is created by the law for that specific purpose. The beneficial accomplishment of the purpose is what it promises the public in return for the privilege to exist. How childish, then, to say that the public has no right to demand that the corporation shall fulfill its part of the agreement. Seldom in these days does a paper, even among those most besottedly devoted to corporate interests, display the contempt for the intelligence of its readers which the Kansas City Journal exhibits in this article. It pleads for capital to build railroads, but if the level of intelligence in that part of the country is correctly indicated by what it gives the people to read, their need of schoolhouses is far more urgent.

THE WAR ON TUBERCULOSIS.

An International Congress on Tuberculosis will be held in Washington, D. C., from September 21, 1908 to October 12, inclusive. In anticipation of this event the Secretary General of the association, Dr. John S. Fulton has sent out a carefully compiled statement of the object of the association and of its purpose in calling the convention at the time specified.

The study and prevention of tuberculosis have during the past decade occupied many of the highest minds in medical and biological circles. On this congress which will convene in the National Capital during the most strenuous part of the Presidential campaign of next year, will assemble a large number of distinguished men from all parts of the world—physicians, hygienists, sociologists and humanitarians, and each will bring to the conference facts bearing upon the cause, and successful prevention of this most dreaded and most prevalent of all of the diseases that have dogged the footsteps of civilization. The most noted authorities on tuberculosis in this country are included among the directors of this association, and they are moreover men wise in public affairs.

The Congress will be far more than a convention at which men of science discuss findings and opinions concerning this disease. An exhibit made up of a large collection of illustrative objects, is being prepared, the purpose of which is purely educational. In this the public cannot fail to be interested. The subject is one that belongs to every section of the country, and, indeed, of the civilized world, since no place is so remote that the germs of this insidious disease have not reached it. The exhibit will be open and free to the public at all times during the three weeks of the convention, and its showing will be of interest to people of all classes since the disease that it will portray in different stages of its progress is literally everybody's disease.

This association has been in existence four years and the Congress of next year will be the largest enterprise that it has undertaken. It has the indorsement of President Roosevelt and the Federal Government and every possible facility will be accorded that will have a tendency to widen the scope and insure the success of the convention.

The occasion will afford physicians a rare opportunity to meet distinguished members of their profession from all parts of the world. There is no man more eager to close with opportunity than the physician who is, first of all, a student and an enthusiast in his profession; hence this congress will number hundreds of physicians, among its attendants, and it may be confidently said that each will return to his practice with a better equipment wherewith to fight tuberculosis than he had before.

The restriction of this disease is not alone a medical problem; it is a political and social problem as well. Its wastefulness in human life in arrested energy and in productiveness is a question with which political economists must deal. The pitiful and painful progress of its victims toward the certain goal is a phase of the waste that appeals directly and strongly to humanity; the price of its menace is recognized by the sanitarian and its inroads upon human life by the statistician. Awakened intelligence everywhere is asking what shall we do to be released from the deadly clutch of this deadliest foe of the human race? The answer is: Beware of the beginnings of the disease; prevention is always possible, cure at best problematical. To make the danger signals of tuberculosis intelligible to the most simple is the first purpose of those who are waging war upon tuberculosis. Knowledge is in this realm all powerful, ignorance fatally weak. Hence the effort by sanitarians, humanitarians and scientists to disseminate knowledge in regard to tuberculosis and dispel the ignorance which is its chief stronghold.

Chester Thompson, the youthful Seattle murderer, for whose life and liberty his father, a noted attorney, made so strenuous, protracted and pathetic a struggle before the Circuit Court at Tacoma, is to be sent to the insane ward of the penitentiary at Walla Walla in June, unless further stay of proceedings can be secured. This decision is in the interest of public safety. The lad was acquitted of murder on the ground of insanity. Before he committed the crime he was not known to be insane. He was moody, erotic, queer. He is still so. If the mental equipment caused him to commit murder once it may again. Hence public safety demands his incarceration and as a law creating a ward in the penitentiary for insane criminals will go into effect June 12 the court has decided that to be the proper place for the lad. The decision is one in which the public generally will concur as being under the circumstances just and prudent.

Farmers who have been caught by the dry weather without their plowing completed could have avoided this difficulty to a large degree by following the advice of the Agricultural College to plow under a crop of clover or other crop every few years. Such a practice supplies humus and keeps the soil loose and porous. Continuous cultivation eventually makes soil "dead," or places it in such condition that the soil will bake hard as soon as warm weather comes. According to reports this has been an unfavorable Spring for cultivating where the soil has not been kept loose. But we shall have plenty of rain yet.

Streetcar smokers will now have to keep the fetid filth of their tobacco in their own faces and in their own clothes. The ban is ordained, not to compel them to be decent, for that is impossible, but to force them to respect the sensibilities of others. The tobacco hog will now vent his rudeness in another direction—on the conductor who enforces the new rule. There are city ordinances regulating the stink of garbage wagons on the streets and others are needed to keep within due bounds the perfumery of smoke-laden citizens.

To be immensely rich is to be the prey of blackmailers both before and after death. Not near all the blackmailing schemes are ever brought to light, but those which do become known show that wealth is often a destroyer of peace.

One of the surest ways to get an electric railroad to Hillsboro is to keep up the race between Swigert's Oregon Electric Company and Wittenberg's United Railways. Let them go to it. The one who skins the other will be a wonder.

We are told that horses have doubled in value in the last four years. The animals had horse sense enough to know that they must hold themselves at higher figures or be held in contempt by the automobiles.

The defeated candidates are wondering what in the world the people can see in the successful candidates. That's what a lot of persons wonder whenever a man or a woman chooses a nominee for life's journey.

The Governor of Washington protests against an Oregon quarantine law that will keep Washington sheep off the Oregon ranges. But Oregon has sheep of its own to look after.

The man who keeps his ear to the ground to observe the rumblings of popular opinion is preferable to the one who holds his head so high the people cannot make him hear.

Possibly the Corey incident and the criticism it has aroused will make other men of his kind hesitate to take a similar course. Or will it merely harden their consciences?

The people of this country as well as a jury of 12 men will try the Moyer-Haywood case and their verdict will be in accordance with the evidence.

Song for sore candidates this morning: "And the world goes on just the same." It won't do any good, however, "to find the ones to blame."

Some of the things that are being said about Mr. W. E. Corey ought to give a more forceful meaning, if possible, to the word "excoriation."

Oregon is promised a bumper cherry crop. The record of Oregon will be broken for quantity and the world's record for quality.

The gas company is bolder now after the primaries and will be in good shape again after the election next month.

The burglar who tried to kiss the hired girl should have known better in these days of hard-reckoning with the "help."

Those fellows who didn't get the nominations should respect their enemies at least for being good prophets.

Who was it that started that gross libel that a Democrat cannot write. Ex-Candidate Thomas knows better.

Salem has begun to pave. And if a good job shall be done the people will never be sorry for the beginning.

Now listen to the soft things, instead of hard, that the nominees will say of their unsuccessful rivals.

The State Library at Salem contains tons of books, but no Bible. It is a place frequented by lawyers.

The girl who insists upon not having a chaperone is quite likely to be most in need of one.

SYMPOSIUM OF CURRENT STATE TOPICS

Why the State Agricultural College Regents Raised the Salary of Their New President. Outlook for Better Pay for Public School Teachers—Shocking Neglect of State Officials About Scriptural Literature—How the New Sheep Dipping Law Works—Farmers Going to the City and Professional Men to the Farm—Scarcity of Wood and the Consequences.

WHEN the Board of Regents of the State Agricultural College a few days ago elected W. J. Kerr, of Utah, to the presidency of the institution at Corvallis, they raised the salary from $3000 to $5000 a year. This does not mean much in itself, but, when the ultimate consequences are considered, it means much in the great contest that has been waging for some time for higher pay for those engaged in the teaching profession. The president of the State University has been getting but $3000, but it will be readily apparent that the head of that institution should receive as much as the head of the Agricultural College, and the salary at Eugene will be raised. Then it will be seen that the difference between the salaries of the presidents and those of the professors is too great, and there will be a gradual marking up all along the line, though probably not at the same rate that the salary of the president at Corvallis has been raised. A beginning has been made. A higher standard of compensation has been set. Some of the advances may not be made for a year or two, and may be slight, but eventually the change of policy will be felt down to the primary grades and out in the country schools. As president of the Agricultural College, of Utah, Mr. Kerr received a salary of $4800 a year, and Oregon made a little raise on that figure in order to get him.

IN the effort to secure the best man for the position the Board of Regents has spared no pains in looking into men's records and studying their general qualifications aside from experience and education. A man was desired who would not only be recognized as a specialist in Agricultural College work, but one who would also, by reason of his personal characteristics, be able to continue that good feeling which has existed during the administration of President Gatch. In this connection, a story is told that shows the views of the members of the Board as to one kind of man who would not do. There was a large number of applicants for the vacancy caused by resignation of President Gatch. Among them was one man who was vigorous in pressing his claim, and he had such a good record in scholastic attainments and in experience that he seemed to be in a fair way to be the successful aspirant. But he pulled one too many wires. He ascertained that Governor Chamberlain is a Democrat, while a number of the other members of the Board are Republicans. Thinking to win the support of the Republican members he wrote them that the Governor was opposing him because he was a Republican. He also spoke of one of his rivals as "that man Blank." Tactics of this kind lost him all his support and made him an impossible candidate. Not a Republican on the Board would support him, arguing that this single act was sufficient to show that he would not be a safe man to put at the head of a large institution. Many a teacher in the common schools has killed himself off in pretty much the same way. The incident just related may serve as an object lesson to some who may in the future be tempted to pull wires whose ends have unknown attachments.

CORVALLIS has figured in educational news in another respect in the past week by reason of the resignation of Principal S. W. Holmes, of the public schools, who will leave the teaching profession at the end of the present year to take a position as a bookkeeper in the office of a lumber company at Ostrander, Washington. This change is one of many illustrations of the effect of comparatively low wages paid to teachers. Men find that they can do better in other occupations and many of them gradually desert the ranks of the public school instructors. The process has already resulted in scarcity of teachers and the scarcity will increase.

BIBLES are apparently not essential features of state libraries and state offices in Oregon. At any rate, Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman was unable a few days ago to find a copy of the sacred book around the Capitol at Salem, and he tells the story at his own expense as well as that of his associates. He owns up to having no Bible in his office library, though he says he has one at home. When he recently had occasion to use a Scriptural quotation in preparing an address he needed a Bible to give him the exact language, and therefore went up to the State Library, where there are thousands of volumes of law books, reference books and treatises of various kinds. But the book of books, containing the Ten Commandments, upon which all law is founded, was not there, and, so the report goes, there is no record of one having been there for a dozen years. Then he repaired to the Governor's office, where Private Secretary Gaiens volunteered to loan him a Bible, but upon searching for it was unable to find the desired volume. "The Governor must have taken it with him when he went out on a long trip and wanted something good to read" was the explanation offered. Inquiries at the offices of the Secretary of State and State Treasurer were met with prompt response that no Bibles were kept there. Then, remembering that the Oregon Library Commission volunteers to furnish information on any and all subjects, he called on Secretary Marvin, only to be turned away empty-handed. Of course, the State Land Office didn't have a Bible. Finally, convinced that the search was useless and that if the state ever had a Bible some member of the Legislature must have taken it away by mistake, he gave up the search and sent down town and bought one.

OREGON'S new sheep-dipping law is likely to have considerable effect in creating a co-operative spirit among those farmers in Western Oregon who keep small bands of sheep. A sheep-dipping vat of approved form costs from $75 to $100, though tanks that will answer the purpose can be had for less. The dipping must be done in the presence of an inspector, who collects from the owner of the sheep a fee of $5 a day and his expenses in going to and from the place where the work is to be done. Owners of small bands of sheep will find it considerably cheaper to put up community dipping plants on the co-operative plan and shear their sheep at the same time, so that they will all be ready to dip at once and treat all the sheep of the community at one visit of the inspector. It will be difficult for each individual to arrange for separate visits of the inspectors, troublesome to prepare the vats and dipping solution, and much more expensive. In some places in Eastern Oregon movements are on foot for the establishment of central shearing places, where modern shearing machinery will be provided and the sheep can be dipped at the same time. It is said that the shearing can be done at less expense by machinery and with a saving of from one-half to a pound of wool from each sheep. Sheepowners will find the new regulations burdensome at first, but the Government inspection rules will make dipping unavoidable. Members of the State Commission believe the farmers in Western Oregon will soon adjust themselves to the requirements, so that the inspection and dipping need not be very expensive.

CHARIVARI parties get into the news columns of papers most frequently by reason of such lawlessness as the breaking of windows and doors or the shooting of some member of the party by the angered groom, but last week an affair of this kind terminated disastrously to persons who were in no way connected with it. At Albany a party of young people were making "music" with tin pans and other instruments around a house where a newly married couple had taken their abode, and, while the noise was at its height, a man drove past with his wife and three young children in the carriage with him. His team was scared so that it ran away, demolished the carriage, broke the woman's arm, knocked the man senseless, and injured the children, though not seriously. A sort of unwritten law protects young people from punishment on occasions of that kind, else there might be a criminal court record to go with the event.

SCARCITY of cord wood and consequent high prices is quite likely to prove of advantage in encouraging the owners of some of the Oregon coal mines to develop their properties and place their product upon the market. Recently work has been pushed on some coal lands in Jackson County and it is expected that the fuel will soon be coming out in considerable quantities. Coos County has immense coal fields of high grade product, Columbia County and some Eastern Oregon districts have well-known coal deposits. With wood soaring in price as it has in the past year people will soon be ready to burn coal even in cook stoves.

DRIFT of city men to the country and country men to the city is one of the notable tendencies growing every year more pronounced. Eugene papers convey the information that George A. Dorris, formerly a lawyer and political leader, is now one of Lane County's most extensive farmers. His feature this year is said to be 15 acres of asparagus, the product from which he sells in Portland. The Oregon State Journal says he carries $15 worth to town in his buggy at one trip. Henry Brophy, formerly political boss of Salem, is now a prosperous farmer near Eola and entirely out of politics. Polk County papers at the same time record that J. R. Shepard, one of the best known and most successful farmers in the Valley, is leaving the farm to go to Seattle. He has an ideal farm at Zena, a beautiful view of Spring Valley, everything in ship-shape, pure, cold spring water piped into his house, and yet he was going to sell out and go to the city. His city friends told him he was crazy, so he will hold on to the farm till he tries the city for a year or two. Then he will see. And the same story is being told from one end of the state to the other. Names are mere incidents. Railroad attorneys want to be farmers; successful farmers want to be city bankers and merchants. Of Mr. Dorris the Eugene paper says he now has an income from his farm equal to that of any lawyer in that part of the state.

HOWEVER the season may have been for hatching Chinese pheasants in the woods, it is said to be promising for those who raise these game birds in confinement. Eugene Simpson, of Corvallis, has about a hundred pheasant hens which he expects will lay 4000 eggs. He has sold most of the year's product and will raise some 600 chicks himself. His China hens lay an average of 40 eggs each during the season, but occasionally a hen will lay as many as 80.

A WOMAN, Mrs. S. A. Yoacum, has introduced the first power-milking machine into Coos County, one of the great dairy regions of Oregon. After a trip of investigation in California she decided the machines are a success, especially when dairy hands are scarce. The machine is operated by a 4-horsepower gasoline engine.

ALBANY Baptists have decided to build a new church at a cost of $9000. It will be of the old mission style and will have a seating capacity of 750—500 in the main auditorium and 250 in the gallery. The new structure will be on the site of the old.

THAT there has either been a scarcity of lawyers in Lebanon or ought to have been is indicated by the declaration in the Lebanon Criterion that a lawyer of that city recently examined an abstract in which 21 conveyances were noted. Of these, 12 were so defective that they would not convey title. The defective conveyances were made a number of years ago.

The Six o'Clock Train.

Lucy Foster, in St. Nicholas.

The six o'clock train comes through with a bang!
And a roar and a toot and a hiss and a clang!
I'm the conductor and Trot's engineer,
She cries, "All aboard!" and I say, "All right here!"
Mother's a passenger, riding in state;
The front chair's for father, he never is late.
He comes running in, for the train makes a dash!
We stop—he jumps on—then we're off like a flash!
No matter how much it may snow, blow or rain,
Father's always in time for the six o'clock train.