

# The Oregonian

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condition of markets, and the general law of demand and supply.  
 The platform declares there should be a law to prohibit courts from assuming jurisdiction involving the constitutional rights of citizens, passed by Congress and approved by the President. Since the courts from the first have exercised this function, and since the results are interwoven with the whole fabric and system of our Government, it cannot be expected that such law will ever be enacted; at least till the Constitution, about the subject, is abolished. The country at this time would not allow a change so revolutionary. The question as to authority of the Supreme Court to override state legislation, that refers to matters of state policy and action, is a question of another kind.

### LIMITATIONS OF A TRUST

The American Society of Equity, which was organized for the purpose of correcting some of the shortcomings of the present law of supply and demand, has experienced difficulty in overturning that well-established economic law. The Society of Equity is a trust, but not the bad kind of a trust that makes the farmer pay more for his crop than is warranted by the law of supply and demand, which, if not restrained, would drive the farmer into bankruptcy. The trust is a good one, and the farmer's trust is organized for the purpose of making every consumer of wheat, corn, pork, tobacco, and other great agricultural staples, pay more than they would pay if the supply of these various commodities were not withheld from them by unnatural methods.

This trust is one that it is proposed to exempt from the operation of law by an amendment providing that the anti-trust law "shall not apply to any arrangement or agreement or combinations among persons engaged in agriculture or horticulture, made with a view to increasing the price of their own agricultural or horticultural products." But this good trust, which is only aimed at the man who must use farm products, has apparently found the way to monopoly beset with obstacles. Wheat and tobacco were singled out as two particular commodities in which the price was to be forced above the old supply-and-demand regulated figure, and in neither of these staples has overwhelming success attended the efforts of the trust. When wheat was hovering around 40 cents per bushel in the Chicago market about a year ago, the Society of Equity advised its members to hold their crops for \$1 per bushel. Soon after this notice was sent out, the green bug, the chinch bug, rust, dry weather, and a few other "treacherous" features of life in the wheat belt appeared.

The Society, together with drought in India, poor crops in Russia, and nothing doing in Australia, sent prices well above the dollar mark in Chicago. Then the director-general of the farmers' trust sent forth an edict that wheat should be held for \$1.25. This disclosed the limitations of the farmers' trust so far as wheat was affected, and, while some of the American farmers may have held for the \$1.25, others sold, and the Argentine began selling so much wheat, even before it was floated, that the price dropped back on the wrong side of the dollar mark, and has hung there for months. If my advance again, but if it should, it is in response to the law of supply and demand, and not in accordance with Society of Equity rulings.

With tobacco the trust has been even less successful. The contest on this staple was perhaps more popular, because it was directed primarily against the tobacco trust, and not tobacco as a luxury and bread in necessity, the distinction is not all in favor of the Society of Equity. In an attempt to maintain prices at Society of Equity figures, the farmers' trust has all but brought on civil war in Kentucky. Anti-trust farmers who wished to grow tobacco and sell to dealers who wished to sell it have been murdered and maimed, their barns burned and crops ruined. "Night riding" has become as serious a menace to peace as the old Ku Klux Klan of a generation ago. The tobacco war of the Society of Equity has temporarily established the government of Kentucky, but it has thus far failed to establish the price of tobacco.

### RAILROADS DECREASED EARNINGS

The January returns for the American railroads offer strong reasons for the earnest desire of their managers for what James J. Hill designated as a "period of rest." A compilation made by the New York Financial and Commercial Chronicle for the January business shows a falling off in gross earnings of nearly \$3,000,000, rate which, if continued, would show a decrease in earnings for the year of approximately \$300,000,000, a very impressive amount. In this compilation were 103 roads, representing 157,829 miles of road. The gross earnings of these roads in January, 1908, showed a decrease of 12.21 per cent, and the net earnings decreased 29.83 per cent. The total decrease in net earnings was \$11,496,248, this being the third time in 13 years that a decrease has been recorded, and it was more than \$10,000,000 greater than the largest previous decrease, which was in January, 1897. But four roads in the United States succeeded in scoring increases in net earnings for the month, although the Canadian Pacific is credited with an increase of \$75,563 and is included in the list with the American roads. Some of the roads, which were supposed to be in an impregnable position, suffered more than others which had been regarded as vulnerable. The New York Central made a poorer showing than either the Michigan Central or the Lake Shore roads, although, as the parent stem of these systems, it has generally made the most favorable showing.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the New York Central, with a record business in its credit in 1907, and with gross earnings showing an increase of more than \$8,000,000, was obliged to face a decrease of more than \$4,000,000 in net earnings. In explanation of this contradictory showing of an increase in gross and a decrease in net earnings, President Newman states that "hours of labor have been shortened by law, rates of fare have been reduced, liability for accidents has been increased, and in ways too numerous to mention burdens have been placed on railroad companies which other corporations are not subjected to, and their ability to bear them has been lessened." Since February 1, unofficial reports from the newspapers indicate that there

has been some improvement, but a large portion of any increase scored for a while will be impaired by the necessity of expenditures which were held down very close to the danger point in order that a less gloomy statement might appear during the period of depression.

That there has been a determined effort on the part of railroads to improve this showing is disclosed in the item of operating expenses, which decreased \$8,529,000. The universal nature of the decrease is shown in a summary, grouping the roads into seven different sections. In this group the 25 Southern roads suffer most, with a decrease of 36.53 per cent in net earnings, and with the Middle West second, showing a decrease of 33.83 per cent; the best group being five anthracite coal lines, which show an increase of 7.23 per cent. Nineteen roads, including the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Milwaukee & St. Paul, were not included in the totals given, as they made no returns except on gross earnings, which showed a decrease of 11.91 per cent, although the Hill roads both showed an increase. Viewed as a whole, the report is not a pleasing one, and there will be general satisfaction if the official figures for February and March bear out the news reports of improved business and lessened expense.

### THE FILIBUSTER

Legislation by "unanimous consent" and the edicts of the committee on rules has been rudely interrupted in the National House of Representatives. Mr. Sergio E. Payne, who is Mr. Cannon's right-hand man in the standard policy of doing nothing, calls the interruption a filibuster. Mr. John Sharp Williams, leader of the revolt, says it is nothing of the kind. With a certain acuteness he remarks that a filibuster is an effort to prevent business being done while the sole purpose of his rebellion is to force the Republican majority to do business. He declares that Mr. Cannon and his satellites quake with fear lest some member should try to carry out those Presidential policies which they all profess to admire. Their plan of campaign is to prevent innumerable speeches in praise of Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations, but carefully to refrain from enacting any of them into laws.

Mr. Williams believes that the country is eager to see several laws passed which would transform the President's recommendations from theory into fact, and he has announced that the Democrats will prevent the transaction of all routine business, or delay it until they can prevent it, until their opponents consent to do what the people wish. It is to be hoped that they will prevent innumerable speeches in praise of Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations, but carefully to refrain from enacting any of them into laws. Mr. Williams believes that the country is eager to see several laws passed which would transform the President's recommendations from theory into fact, and he has announced that the Democrats will prevent the transaction of all routine business, or delay it until they can prevent it, until their opponents consent to do what the people wish. It is to be hoped that they will prevent innumerable speeches in praise of Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations, but carefully to refrain from enacting any of them into laws.

At this time of the year, farmers will tell one, the corn sweats in the bin, feeling the primal soul of things at work and longing dumbly to partake in the resurrection of the world, who shall be in the world as the corn. Life is rampant within the grain. When the sun has crossed the Tropic of Cancer, and if they find no natural and healthy outlet for their energy they turn to what is unnatural. They gather in great mass meetings to spout revolution. They rail at society. They are the wild-eyed anarchists in New York and Chicago could be led out to the gardens of the Mississippi Valley and Oregon to plant cabbages and pull weeds they would become the most lamblike people in the world. They are fierce and frenzied because they are shut off from the hale influence of the earth at the season of the new birth. Plant the anarchists out on the land and they will cultivate flowers with the same fury that they now waste upon bombs.

It is in Spring that we feel most deeply the misfortune of modern life, which debars men from their needed communion with the great mother of us all. The serenity of our city now is a species of homesickness; their protests against real and imaginary wrongs are the wailing of lost children for the cradle and lullaby of the sun-warmed ground. Marvelous is the voice of Spring; mighty the chords of its orchestra; but the music is massive rather than loud. It fills the soul without stirring us to frenzy. It inspires to long effort, but hushes the rash ambition that would scream for a day and die. Spring has a sympathy for the evening when the great procession of the stars begins its silent march across the heavens and the natural human world goes to rest. It is a symphony of a thousand instruments all toned low and the chords are full of memory, of mystery and wonder. As sleep comes on the meaning deepens and the last sound that fills the ears in the beginning of slumber is the voice of the earth. "Sleep, frail creature, for the soul of the world is waking. Smile in your dreams, for God is making all things new."

### THE BABY HOME AND ITS MISSION

In a suburb in the southeast in this city, standing upon a beautiful and commanding site that was donated for the purpose by the late J. W. Kern and Sarah, his wife, is a building which is the home the year round of from twenty to forty babies, who without its shelter would be homeless. Upon its front in large letters, are the words "Baby Home," and seeing these words the magic of its purpose is revealed. The work of caring for the helpless inmates of this Home is practically and tenderly supervised by a competent board of control, and is performed by the most suitable helpers that can be procured. Naturally the task is a delicate and exacting one, and, unfortunately, it has been hampered at many stages in its progress by lack of funds sufficient to meet its legitimate demands. No discouragements, however, have contributed to daunt the spirit or abate the energy of those who serve this charity. Ever effort has been made to give the babies sent to the Home the inestimable benefit of a right start in life, and to place them, when they outgrow the period of babyhood, in suitable individual homes. That this effort has been successful is shown by the reports received from foster parents of the gratifying progress toward useful manhood and womanhood of the children transferred from the Baby Home to their care. Judged by this irrefutable testimony the work of the Baby Home has proved a success. That it will continue to be so cannot be doubted, since, in a work of this kind, there is no place where a halt can be called.

no place. Indeed, where those who have made its interests their own, wish to stop.

There is always in such work need of money. The public will bear this in mind in ordering a less gloomy statement might appear during the period of depression.

### THE PIONEERS

June 11 has been designated "Pioneer Day" for the present year by the officers of the Oregon Pioneer Association. This means that the gray-haired host that has for many years partaken of the hospitality of the citizens of Portland will rally somewhat earlier this year than usual, exchange greetings, renew old friendships, remain in connection with the benefit quiet at flower-decked tables upon the fat of the land and pass into the eclipse of quiet home life for another year.

The records of the Association show that an unusual number of pioneers have answered the final roll call in the past season, more than crucial to the human race. Most of the opposition to vivisection comes from an abnormal sentimentality which almost defines dogs and cats and despises men and women. Such periodicals as Collier's Weekly oppose the bills because they tend to retard the progress of scientific medicine and subject mankind to needless suffering.

The practice of vivisection needs regulation, in all likelihood. Irresponsible persons ought not to be allowed to inflict cruelties upon the lower animals nor should anybody do so without the best of reasons. But to subject scientific research to the conservatism of ignorant politicians and silly sentimentalists is the height of folly. Physicians do not experiment upon the lower animals because they enjoy suffering. Their purpose is to prevent suffering. Both beasts and men have benefited by these experiments. Tuberculosis is cured, for example, not only by controlled knowledge gained from tests upon living animals, but this terrible disease could be eradicated, cattle would be healthier and so would human beings.

Still it must be acknowledged that the main purpose of vivisection is to benefit the human race, and if that purpose is achieved it is worth all it may cost in suffering to the lower animals. We owe to vivisection the serum which control diphtheria, erysipelas, pneumonia and possibly one for spinal meningitis. If a cure for cancer is ever found it must be by this method. When dogs are used in the sufferings of a few dogs and cats amount to compared with the solution of the fearful problem of a cancer specific? Let vivisection be regulated, but let it be done in the interest of the human race.

### AN OPEN, VULGAR PLAY

Life in what is called the upper circles of society in New York, and only in a lesser degree in other large cities in the East, because of the relatively smaller population and wealth, is faithfully indexed by the disruption of the marital relations of men and women who have more money than they know what to do with and who, in exploring for a while together in dreary realm of boredom come to find each other the most intolerable of all created things. It is a dull, weary, tedious, those select circles of money spenders, in which a Vanderbilt does not apply for relief from the bonds of marital boredom by seeking divorce, a Gould parade his or her follies and the vices of the other party to a mercenary marriage contract before the world; or the flagrant indecencies of a Chase or a Corey are not flaunted in the face of the public with unblinking fidelity to noxious detail.

Preliminary to these disgusting recitals of marital differences, shameless liaisons and reckless debauchery, there is at irregular intervals a marriage celebrated with all the solemnity of a church can bestow upon it and all the display that wealth can give. We all remember when Consuelo, daughter of divorced parents of the house of Vanderbilt, was married with regal pomp and went away to England as Duchess of Marlborough, her mother immediately thereafter crossing over to Connecticut to become the wife of a man whom she decided would not be such a bore as she had found her Vanderbilt husband to be. Consuelo recently came back to visit her mother, after an arrangement had been made whereby she could discard her dual husband for a money consideration. The splendor of the marriage of Anna Gould to a French Count—a dissipated little mercenary whom her father, Jay Gould, would have kicked out of doors had Castellan come a-wooing his daughter in his lifetime—became eclipsed by the dark shadows of scandal and debt and desecrated that began to gather before the honeymoon had waned. Divorce followed—a French divorce. And as if Madame Anna had not contributed her full share to the aggregation of indecency under the name of marriage she is about to repeat the scandalous farce, with herself principal comedienne, by going through the mockery of marriage with a cousin of her late discarded lord, who is, if possible, a more notorious roue than he whom she but now pensioned and set aside.

But why cite further examples of the straits to which certain of the idle rich are driven to provide amusement for themselves while disturbing their unwearyed guests? The play is open, vulgar and common. Its scenes shift rapidly, but, except for occasional change of names in the title role, they disclose nothing new. It is simply repetition hammered on the ear—the same old slabbered tale that does not even boast of being a new life. It pretends to be a play about the most conspicuous fact about society, its unutterable and agonizing boredom, the great solemn functions of which are attended by women half asleep behind their jeweled fans. It is a phase of the pace that kills, the disclosure of a worn and vicious strain that idleness and unearned wealth have injected into the blood of sturdy men and virtuous women of a past generation, sapping its vitality and prostituting it to vile purposes.

Rome, which sat on her seven hills "and from her throne of beauty ryled the world," who with that effect, it still the same old Rome, so far as enforcing the law is concerned. So many of the sons of sunny Italy went back

a peach tree. Do not be so fatuous as to say that the peach blossom makes itself; nor is it much less fatuous to say that nature makes it. What is nature? It is either something or nothing. If it is nothing, then your phrase that nature does thus and thus has no meaning. It is a mere form of words to escape from thought. But if nature is something that works and plans and builds then you mean by the word precisely the same that others call God. Nor is it any refuge for the godless man to deny that there is a plan, and plead that evolution has produced the glory and magnificence of Spring. Why did evolution produce it with all this beauty and compelling charm? Why has evolution upon the whole been kindly and not cruel? Why has it left the world with potential good instead of evil? Evolution is but a method; behind the method there is a power that patiently through the infinite succession of the Springtimes works out his eternal will.

### VIVISECTION

Pending before the Legislature of New York there are one or more bills which aim to restrict the practice of vivisection. They have been introduced by persons to whom cruelty to the lower animals is a crime, and who are in sympathy with the human race. Most of the opposition to vivisection comes from an abnormal sentimentality which almost defines dogs and cats and despises men and women. Such periodicals as Collier's Weekly oppose the bills because they tend to retard the progress of scientific medicine and subject mankind to needless suffering.

The practice of vivisection needs regulation, in all likelihood. Irresponsible persons ought not to be allowed to inflict cruelties upon the lower animals nor should anybody do so without the best of reasons. But to subject scientific research to the conservatism of ignorant politicians and silly sentimentalists is the height of folly. Physicians do not experiment upon the lower animals because they enjoy suffering. Their purpose is to prevent suffering. Both beasts and men have benefited by these experiments. Tuberculosis is cured, for example, not only by controlled knowledge gained from tests upon living animals, but this terrible disease could be eradicated, cattle would be healthier and so would human beings.

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from the United States of America in the storage last Winter that labor conditions are congested, and a strike has resulted. But a strike in old Rome is different from a strike in March, Hank or some other labor center in the land of the free, where the organizers acquire the strike habit. As soon as the strikers became obstreperous, the troops fed on them, killing three rioters and injuring a number of others. This treatment is so different from that which is usually encountered in the United States that there will undoubtedly be an evacuation of Rome, and a swift retreat to this country of a large number of athlete bearers.

The death of Mrs. Mary Holmes, which occurred in this city Thursday, recalls the pioneer era in which the name of Holmes figured conspicuously in and about Oregon City. The late husband, Captain Samuel Holmes, was a lad in the pioneer town half a century ago. His father, whose name made "Rose Farm" on the hill a few miles east of Oregon City a synonym of hospitality for two generations, was a contemporary of A. F. and Joseph Hedges, Governor Abernathy, Leaman Latourette, S. W. Moss, R. K. William, James and J. L. Barlow, Peter Hatch, N. F. Paquet, J. C. Ainsworth, Robert Caulfield, W. L. White, John R. Coburn, Governor Curry, Dr. Barclay, W. C. Dement, Thomas Charman and others, whose names will be recalled as representing actors in the civilization of their day. All of those above mentioned except the last have long since passed away. The name of one recalls those of the others, and the whole make-up and rank and file of a sturdy, self-reliant host, each of whom performed well his part in the drama of life as it came to him.

We are drifting into the fourth month of the new year, and the Argentine, which began shipping heavily early in January, is still pouring wheat into the European markets in record-breaking quantities. Shipments for the week ending Thursday reached a total of \$4,000,000 bushels, and, with the immense amount of tonnage still under charter to load at the River Plate it seems probable that this high average may be maintained for at least another month. The prevailing high prices have, of course, served to draw the crop out more rapidly than usual, but the proportions of the weekly shipments are somewhat surprising, and if they are continued much longer may have a tendency to increase the foreigners' independence of the American markets. The situation is most peculiar and the future course of the market is a difficult problem to solve.

It is, doubtless, an agreeable thing to Judges in Multnomah to escape or avoid the trial of the indicted officials of the Title Guarantee & Trust Company. But The Oregonian believes the officials could have been tried impartially and justly here. Of course, there is no possibility of causing any reflection upon the opinion or action of the other Judges; but the dissenting opinion of Judge O'Day seems to us to be sound and just. His statement of the relation of newspapers to the public is particularly worthy of commendation.

A newspaper of Eastern Oregon asks: "Do you give one good reason why a Republican should be afraid to take the Statement No. 1 pledge, in Oregon, or any sure Republican majority, weigh too heavily on your mind. How often have we seen it, in the scale, fly up and kick the beam!"

The free baths should be taken over by some philanthropic organization or by some person or persons who love their kind. A city as a rule