

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, Aug. 16, 1908.

MONEY AND ARMS.

Paul Mauser, it is announced from Germany, has invented a new rifle, of much greater efficiency than his former one. The principal feature of the new rifle is a 25 caliber rifle with a single-shot piece, the Mauser loading after each shot, while the magazine of 25 cartridges remains ready for emergency. The new arm weighs but a few ounces more than the rifle now used in the German service.

Confusion has been common during recent years that the means of destroying life in battle had become so effective and deadly that nations would shrink from war, rather than risk annihilation of their armies. But experience, since the invention and use of the new implements of destruction, does not support this idea. Since the use of the new arms began there have been several wars, on a very large scale—as that between France and Germany in 1870; between Russia and Turkey in 1877; and between Japan and Russia in 1904-5. Long-range, rapid-fire arms were used in all these wars; yet more destruction was wrought with the old flint-lock musket, and before firearms, with sword and spear. Men in battle now seldom close, in melee, as in the former time, and if present weapons are more destructive, the combatants keep further apart. In the latest war between France and Germany, there were no battles in Russia, there were those of the Moskwa, Lepsic and Waterloo; and the battles of the old time, such as those of Hannibal and Pyrrhus against the Romans, produced greater proportional slaughter than any recorded since the use of firearms. In the battles of the recent war between Japan and Russia, there were no losses greater than 20 per cent of the numbers engaged. At Gettysburg, fought with muzzle-loading arms, the casualties on either side were above 30 per cent. It is the fighting spirit, not the rifle, that causes losses in battle.

It is not fear of destruction of life, therefore, that deters nations of the modern time from war; it is the enormous expense of war material, and of equipment and support of armies and navies. A single great battleship now costs \$10,000,000. Cost of fortification and ordnance, effective for the new methods of war, is enormous. Equipment of a modern army would be the best, and its waste is excessively rapid. An officer of the German army—General Blume—has published a book in which he says that the direct cost to Germany of a war with a first-class power would be \$1,500,000,000 a year, as long as it lasted; and greater still would be the indirect loss, through paralysis of the industry and financial depression. Best guaranty of peace, therefore, is the financial cost of war. Japan was at the last gasp when President Roosevelt interposed for peace between her and Russia. Of course, Japan, in that condition now for war with any nation. General Kuropatkin, of the Russian army, says in his recent book, that Japan certainly would have been crushed had Russia continued to fight; for, although Japan was dominant on the sea, her financial resources were practically exhausted and her command of the air, therefore, would have given little advantage to her, had the war continued. For Russia was just getting into position to maintain herself on the continent; when the negotiations for peace began her soldiers in the field of the war for the first time outnumbered those of Japan; the railroad was running four or five military trains a day, and supplies for the first time were coming up in adequate quantities. But the Czar is a man of timid character and was easily persuaded to peace, and it was well; for the judgment of the world did not approve Russian aggression upon Korea and Manchuria, and intervention from some quarter would soon have been necessary. Peace was, however, an inevitable boon to Japan. For the demands of this war her resources for many years had been anticipated; and perhaps the exhaustion of her financial resources has been ever since the surest guaranty of peace in the Orient. This, therefore, is a situation. War will not be deemed too costly in life, but too costly in money and material. Where is the nation that now could support a war of long continuance, without financial and industrial exhaustion?

THE STRONG AND THE WEAK.

It is a government of the people, of course. But then there are some people, and then some others and some more. To assume that any man and every man is as wise and fit for direction of government and affairs as any other man and every other man, may be a mistake. Some counsels, perhaps, may be wiser than others. It is an old story; it runs back to the beginning of recorded time. It is a fight, and always will be a fight, for equality; where, nevertheless, equality never can exist. It never can exist because the intellects or talents of men are unequal. And yet the people, the masses of the people, must have a way to get and to hold their rights, and to rise and to make progress; and this can be accomplished only through assertion and progress of the democratic spirit.

The state chairman of the Socialist party of Oregon protests against the ascendancy of the intellectually strong over the intellectually weak; but how

is he going to hold the intellectually strong down to the level of the intellectually weak, he doesn't explain. Yet, he seems to think it would be desirable to do so, if possible. Human society doesn't get on, nor the intellectual and moral progress of the world isn't promoted, by curbing the intellectually strong, nor by holding them down to the conditions of the intellectually weak, nor by trying to make those who are strong in intellect and industry and purpose carry those who are indolent, inefficient or of feeble purpose.

There never can be equality of opportunity, because talents are unequal. Some men can do things that others can't. Is this oppression of the weak by the strong? It is to treat another man unjustly. It is the business of society and its laws to take care of that. But it is not the business of society and its laws to require the active, earnest, prudent, purposeful members to carry the idle, worthless, inefficient ones. They do it voluntarily, indeed, within the demands of humanity; but it is not for the good of the world that they should go further. Inefficiency and dependence are increased and multiplied by efforts to care for and support them.

NO MONOPOLY OF WEALTH.

The old assertion of the promoters of discontent that 5 per cent of the people own 95 per cent of the wealth of the country has received a rude shock from the Saturday Evening Post, which ascertains from Government census reports that there are 5,739,657 farms in the United States, owned by almost as many different people. The value of these farms represents 20 per cent of the wealth of the country. Thus it is shown that about 15 per cent of the people own 20 per cent of the wealth of the country, which makes impossible the owning of 95 per cent of the wealth by 5 per cent of the people. When there has been added to the number of farm owners the number of city residents who own their homes or business property, it will become evident that a very considerable proportion of the people have just about the share of wealth to which an equal division would entitle them. Special privilege, combined with dishonesty, has enabled some few to amass enormous wealth, ignorantly misfortune has combined to make paupers of many. To governmental policies as expressed in our laws, part of the inequalities may be attributed, but it is folly to seek in legislation relief from all undesirable conditions. Means must be found to regulate the exercise of the crafty and unscrupulous few. So far as possible the condition of the thriftless, idle and ignorant must be improved. But in the meantime we must not forget that the great mass of the people are both honest and intelligent and that they are enjoying the comforts of financial prosperity. The idle rich, like the idle poor, are the exception and not the rule. Perhaps each will always be with us, but we can earnestly try to solve the problem of making both classes useful and happy. Neither furnishes a cause for pessimism.

HIS LAST WEEK ON EARTH.

In response to the question how he would spend a week if it were the last one he had to live, Chauncey M. Depew has answered, in a way that was expected, endeavored to answer seriously. But his reply will strike the public as being just a little humorous. First, he would "make his peace with Heaven," as though one who deliberately delays such a matter can make his peace whenever he chooses. Second, he would arrange his affairs that courts and litigants could not divide his estate, as though any man, particularly a lawyer, could arrange any business affair in such a manner that lawyers could not find a court to disarrange it. Third, he would revisit the scenes of his childhood and spend a few hours under the elms of old Yale. Depew evidently is in his second childhood now, or he would not imagine that a visit to the scenes of innocent childhood could bring happiness to one who has devoted the years of his manhood to misrepresentation of his fellow citizens. Fourth, he would invite to dinner all those who have written the nastiest things against him, where they would unite in endeavoring to neutralize past vitriol with present honey. This is but evidence of his desire to escape deserved criticism without removing the occasion for it.

THE TRUTH ABOUT OREGON.

In the effort to secure new capitalists and to induce Eastern capitalists to invest money here, Oregon occupies a strong position, because deception has never been resorted to for this purpose and none is necessary in order to make a good showing. One may look over the immigration literature distributed throughout the United States twenty years ago, and find in subsequent development a fulfillment of all the assertions that were made regarding the resources of the country and the opportunity for new enterprises. In many respects the representations that were made were too modest, owing to the fact that our own people did not realize the future that awaited this state. The lumbering industry has developed beyond the expectations of those who told of our forest wealth and the value of timber land has increased many fold more than anyone believed it would. No man who came to Oregon and invested judiciously in timber land has failed to realize an almost incredible profit on his investment. The lumbering industry in Eastern Oregon has developed more rapidly and to a much larger extent than the most enthusiastic boomer believed was possible, and grain crops are now produced annually on land that even a conscientious real estate agent would not have tried to sell twenty years ago. Men have made fortunes on such land. This state has always been advertised as a good fruit-growing region, but no one who tried to induce immigration in the '80s told half the story of the wealth our orchards will produce. The wildest dreamer did not then imagine the

values that would be reached by good orchard land. Never in the history of Portland was a prediction made that fully measured up to the growth of values of city property, such as has been experienced here in the last three years. No man who came to Portland and invested money on the representations of responsible men has failed to realize a large profit on his investment.

Very few people who came here from the East or Middle West ever returned to their former homes to live. Very frequently they sent back reports which brought their relatives and friends to join them in this land of opportunity. They found, after a residence in this state, that a description of the climate and other natural conditions were well within the truth and that this is an incomparably better state in which to live than any east of the Rocky Mountains. The absence of excessive heat and cold, the proximity of mountain and seashore resorts, the freedom from cyclones, thunder storms and blizzards, have all appealed strongly to newcomers and have made them contented in their new surroundings. None of them have been disappointed in fulfillment of their expectations. Nowhere in the East has the report gone that the climate here is better than the conditions they would find. The truth about Oregon is good enough, and there is no excuse for telling anything else.

THE MAN WHO WATCHES THE CLOCK.

"He who never does more than he is paid for will never be paid for more than he does." Such is the motto printed in large type on a postal card offered for sale by post card shops. Though the rule thus briefly stated may not be always and invariably true, it is applicable to the individual and limited periods of time, yet as a general principle it is as infallible as any law of nature. For a short time one who does less than he is paid for may get pay for more than he does, but in the long run adjustments will be made and the final balance will be struck in accordance with the universal law of compensation. And the rule applies more frequently than one might think, even in the temporary affairs of individuals who seek to get through the world with as little effort and as large returns as possible. A young man at the beginning of his career cannot do better than accept as true the broad principle set forth on the postal card.

ONE MAN'S GRIEVANCE CONSIDERED.

It is not often that this paper, or any paper, these days, pays attention to anonymous communications. Yet there is occasionally one that deserves some consideration even though its author be unknown. Here, for example, is one from a man who says he is prominent in business in this city and who has a complaint against a fact that is likely that he, he says, employs a stupid clerk. The purpose of his letter is to point out to merchants the danger they incur of losing custom by reason of the mistakes of their thick-skulled employees who insult patrons, not intentionally, but nevertheless effectually. The particular grievance of that man is that he went to the store to make a purchase, and the clerk, in an evident intention to be friendly, asked: "Are the roads very dusty out your way?" "The clerk," says this complaining business man, "either thought I was a farmer or told me that I looked like one. It is quite likely that I do not, but if I did, the clerk should have had more tact than to tell me that I did." While everyone will agree that merchants and all other persons dealing with the general public should employ clerks and assistants who are diplomatic and courteous in their conversation and conversations with patrons or prospective patrons, it is difficult to see that this man has any real grievance. In the first place, perhaps he really did look like a farmer. What then? Is it such a disgrace to be a farmer or to look like one? Is it an insult to be universally honest, and they look honest. They are industrious, and their industry shows in their hands and in every line of their faces. Though their clothes may be dusty, every one knows that the modern farmer is a cleanly person, and that the dust is all on the surface. Moreover, the farmer, these days is an intelligent man, bearing no resemblance to the "Rube" who furnishes the model for the cartoonist.

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF LABOR.

The effort to throw the labor vote in mass to one political party is something new in America, though it is common enough elsewhere. The Nation remarked the other day that the radical and labor vote has become so strong in England that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives dare to refuse anything it may ask. This strength has been acquired by the labor vote where it would count for as much as possible. Of course, the same line of policy might be expected to produce the same results here in the end. If the unions should vote unanimously for Mr. Bryan they could, perhaps, elect him; but whether that is the kind of massing which would produce the greatest positive advantage is a question. Naturally, it would not be good policy for labor to give ground for a belief that it would cling unwaveringly to either party, no matter what treatment it might receive. The result of such a course is illustrated in the case of the negroes. Being Republicans, they might happen to have their loyalty at last brought them into a sort of contempt and the leaders began to reckon on their support, with no thought of giving any return for it. The New York Evening Post, though it supports Mr. Taft, says wisely that a "certain mobility in the negro vote" will be a good thing for the colored race. The same is true of the labor vote. It should not be too much like a barnacle. There is such a thing as being too securely settled. Politics is a game of give and take. He who is always ready to give his support for nothing is not likely to get much for it. It is only reasonable for labor to make the best bargain for labor to make the best bargain; but to cast that value to Mr. Bryan in a fit of passion is not the best way to make a bargain. Almost any group of voters can exercise a terrifying power over the politicians if they set astirately at work to do it. The country has many chanta, for example, are not by any

means an overwhelmingly numerous body, but they are well organized and they fully measure up to the value of their votes in the direction of their profits. Their loyalty to their pockets exceeds their loyalty to either party. Hence, when the question of a parcels post came up, the country merchants were able to defeat it. They did not threaten to vote for Mr. Bryan if a parcels post were established, but they made it pretty clear that they would vote against any Congressman, be he Democrat or Republican, who favored it. Think for a moment also of the political power of the Grand Army of the Republic. Whatever this organization has asked of Congress it has obtained, but it has never openly threatened to vote in mass for one party or the other. One imagines rather that it has kept careful tabs on individuals and quietly rewarded or punished them as they seemed to deserve from its point of view.

It is mobility of this species which will make the labor vote efficient in securing its ends. There is no reason to expect that the Democratic party as a whole will or can do any more for labor than the Republican. Either party will do precisely what it can and no more. The wise course for labor, therefore, is to attend to these individuals. Has Mr. Gompers ever thought of the truth that it is not parties but persons who have hearts and brains? Nothing was ever done in the world except through the initiative of some individual. To the calm observer, therefore, no policy could appear more foolish than for labor to throw its vote as a whole to either party. Mr. Gompers' previous plan of selecting particular men for reward or punishment was incomparably more astute. Moreover, in its application to the Democratic party has not made a very enticing record when it has been in power. If anybody knows of a single measure favorable to labor that it has ever enacted he would contribute something to the knowledge of the world by making it public. The promises of the Democratic platform are, Evidently they are lined with a liberal hand. But between the promise and the performance there is such a wide gulf that one may doubt whether it is a wary bird who lets himself get caught. Speaking from the standpoint of labor Mr. Gompers may have good intentions, but in his political generalship is fearfully blundering.

There ought to be some machinery devised which will bring the job-hunter and the job together. It is often true that the city idler knows nothing of the opportunities which the country offers, and if he did know perhaps he lacks the money to pay his way to the country. It is a pity that a man in Portland could find work by going into the country less than forty miles.

"SWEATING" A PRISONER.

The story from Mexico that two Americans were tortured until they gave the names of their companions in a robbery, will excite horror in this country, and yet torture of accused persons is not so uncommon here as we need express astonishment over it. While officers here do not pull out the finger nails in the effort to secure testimony, they very frequently "sweat" a prisoner until he is a nervous wreck and will give any statement or confession before testimony in order to get relief from the torment. Perhaps, in the over-crowded state of his mind, will consent to crimes he did not commit. In the case of the men tortured in Mexico, the authorities justify themselves by the character of the men with whom they had to deal. The same justification is given in this country. In some instances, quite like the torture administered in Mexico, the prisoner deserves as a punishment, but in other cases an innocent man is subjected to the fearful ordeal. In practically all such cases the accused is compelled to testify against himself, which is unconstitutional, and is punished before he has reached his age. Fred Grant is about 58. He has had fame enough, out of the name of his father.

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to a farmer. He ought to be proud. To mistake a good thing for a bad thing is a mistake. She had a Yamhill County cherry-grower, a Washington County dairyman or an Eastern Oregon wheat farmer or a stockman, is far more complimentary than to be mistaken for a railroad magnate just in from a hunting trip to Klamath County. There would have been a real cause for complaint if the clerk had asked, "How are the ducks at Pelican Bay?" but after such a compliment as this man has received he shows his stupidity by not recommending the clerk to his employer for promotion.

FINDING HELP.

Charities for August 8 contains an account of a housekeeper who advertised for a servant. She had numerous applicants for the place, but of the whole number only seven were half competent. Of these seven three were left because they did not get the place. "All the applicants," the account continues, "were bedraggled, disheartened and discouraged," with but two exceptions. Nor did they seem to care very much what wages they received. Their principal purpose was to secure a refuge from that of the supercilious, indifferent, exacting servant to which we are accustomed. Reluctant as we may be to do it, the consequences of the panic still continue to cause misery among the working classes. Many worthy persons are out of employment with an almost hopeless outlook ahead. It is said by some statisticians that never before in this country was there so much genuine want among the decent poor.

And it is no easier to get competent help for rural employment than it was two years ago. Farmers declare indeed that for many kinds of work they can secure no help at all. Wages are somewhat lower than they were in the country districts, but hands are no more numerous. There is a case where the price of labor has fallen with no increase of the supply, which is something unusual. Many landowners have planned to take advantage of the drop in wages to clear land and plant orchards, but they have been disappointed. The price of work is not high, but there are no workmen. In the part of the world it is still virtually impossible to hire a man, or even a boy, in country places to pull weeds, dig out stumps or work in the garden. This is all the more exasperating when one remembers that the cities are thronged with men who are complaining because they cannot find jobs.

There ought to be some machinery devised which will bring the job-hunter and the job together. It is often true that the city idler knows nothing of the opportunities which the country offers, and if he did know perhaps he lacks the money to pay his way to the country. It is a pity that a man in Portland could find work by going into the country less than forty miles.

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SILHOUETTES

BY ARTHUR A. GREENE.

In view of the Springfield outrage it would appear that there's no law for the negro south of "Fifty-three."

The day the divorce is granted may properly be referred to as the grass widow's heyday.

A man was robbed of \$2000 at the Meadows racetrack, at Seattle, the other day and he didn't bet it on the ponies, either.

Repentance may sometimes come at the eleventh hour, but it usually arrives in the cold, gray dawn of the morning after.

The love of God's creatures is the sincerest love of God.