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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1911.

OUR MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The most prosperous year that Portland has ever known has passed into history. Throughout the year, from week to week and from month to month, there have been published in elaborate detail official figures on all branches of industry having a direct bearing on the growth of the city. These figures may be said to represent the effect of a great force moving throughout the immense territory tributary to this city. It is in the cause that precedes this effect that we of Portland and Oregon and the great Northwest are most interested. For on the stability and soundness of that cause is dependent the permanence of this prosperity and a continuation of the record-breaking business that has made 1910 the greatest year in the commercial history of Portland. Summed up in a word, the cause of this wonderful prosperity is capital.

Nature has been so kind to Portland and the adjacent territory that from the earliest days earning a living has never been a serious problem in this country, but also from the earliest days until within the past two years there has been a lamentable lack of capital with which to develop our resources and permit tangible returns in keeping with the possibilities of the country. These many millions of new capital which have been poured into Oregon within the past year or two have been fairly well distributed. They have been used in construction of railroads, irrigation projects, in the purchase of timber lands, farm lands, city and suburban lots, the establishment of factories and mills. They have, in brief, permeated the entire industrial system of the Pacific Northwest, and have proved the elixir of life that has awakened long-dormant resources.

These forces have set in motion an irresistible impetus which may at times be slackened, but will never be entirely checked so long as there remain in this great empire any undeveloped natural resources. Pre-eminent over all other influences in this prosperity that has established so many new records for Portland is the unparalleled activity in railroad construction and improvement. There are now under actual construction in Portland territory more miles of railroad than are building in any other similar area in the world. These new railroads are opening up thousands of square miles of new territory fully as rich in resources as that which has enabled Portland to become already one of the great cities of the West. In this territory many new settlers and new capitalists have preceded the railroad, an increased number are going in as the roads near completion. Following their completion this rush will be greater than ever.

Portland has not grown faster than the country on which it was dependent for its existence, but it has grown and prospered as the tributary territory grew and prospered and it will continue to do so. Situated at the foot of a down-hill haul where mammoth ocean freighters can reach the products of this empire and with the world for a market the commercial position of the city is impregnable. With the real development of this empire just beginning, there is no apparent reason why the closing days of 1911 should not witness new industrial records fully extensive in their proportions as those for the year just closed.

With thousands of square miles of rich territory not yet in production, with more standing timber than remains in any other state in the Union, and with a railroad transportation system that has only "browsed around the edges," Portland has grown into a city of more than 200,000 people, handling more than 2,000,000 tons of deepwater shipping annually, with postal receipts of nearly $1,000,000 per year, building permits of nearly $20,000,000, and bank clearings of more than $500,000,000. From this comparatively small portion of our territory that has been developed Portland has dispatched more large cargoes of flour and lumber than have been sent from any other port. Our fruit, salmon, wool, hops and numerous other great staples have attained a world-wide reputation.

These are some of the results already apparent. If Portland can make such a wonderful showing under the adverse circumstances which for years have retarded development, what can we not expect now that the railroads are pouring millions into the country for the purpose of developing our long neglected regions of richness? If there is anything in the commercial, financial and industrial history of Portland for 1910 that can give the most pessimistic critic any grounds for predicting anything but a continuation of this prosperity for 1911, it is not easily discernible to those who have faith in Oregon and judge the future by the past.

DENSITY OF POPULATION.

The State of Rhode Island, with 508.5 to the square mile, leads the list of states in density of population. If Texas were as thickly settled as Rhode Island, it would have a population of 135,000,000, or over 40 per cent more than the whole area of the United States as reported by the eleventh census. Second in the density list is Massachusetts, with 418.8 persons to the square mile.

Our own possibilities in the line of supporting a heavy population are shown by the fact that as yet we have fewer than ten persons to the square mile and are thus in the class with Montana, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, North and South Dakota and Colorado. The enormous area thus thinly populated is not all arable or grazing land, hence not all is able to sustain the population per square mile that finds means of livelihood in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Yet Oregon will be able when properly developed to enter the list of states that support in plenty more than 100 persons to the square mile. In this class are Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Delaware and Illinois.

There is no section of our wide National domain whose people or their remote progeny have cause to fear the menace of overpopulation as exploited by Malthus. Certainly our own state, with its wide, unoccupied areas that only await irrigation, transportation facilities and the coming of a strong armed yeomanry to blossom into plenty, can look the centuries in the face without dread of a density of population that will overtax its resources. The same is true of the entire Pacific slope, the vast Rocky Mountain region, the wide expanses of the Middle West and the practically unguessed resources of the southland.

ONLY A COLLEGE PROFESSOR.

Henry Jones Ford, of Princeton University, a mere college professor, hints darkly that Oregon, which has the "best government in the world" (vide the verdict of Senator Bourne, in the famous collection of Immortal Sayings of Great Men) will "ultimately pay for it."

What does a musty old book-worm know about the perfect system of statecraft called the Oregon plan, alias the initiative and referendum? Nothing, or very little more than nothing. He doesn't live here. He has had no practical opportunity for personal observation of the wonderful workings of the only "best government" since it began to make history six or eight years ago. All he knows is books, just books.

These books contain the voluminous and imperishable record of the progress of civilization from the remote age of the cave man down through the periods of family, community, racial, and National growth to the modern man in present-day society. It is the story of the rise and fall of peoples and states, the uneven and eventful march of the human race, and the slow and halting development of human government. But what of that? Here in Oregon is a New Idea. What has all previous experience to do with the way we do things in Oregon? We know how. We have proved it by a complete and successful test of six or eight triumphant years. Never mind what failures or disasters or defeats have occurred in other days and other countries through the mistaken effort to substitute another plan for the long-tried device of representative government. They didn't know their business. We do.

Professor Ford in his gloomy prophecy refers entirely to the initiative and referendum. Well, so do we. In Switzerland, the home of the initiative, resort to that remarkable vehicle of popular legislation is practically unknown. But they are mighty slow in Switzerland. In Oregon in six years some forty or fifty amendments and laws have been submitted to the people under the initiative alone. In the slowgoing republic of Switzerland they have resorted to the referendum (not the initiative) but thirty times in its whole history (from 1848 to 1909). Those Swiss people ought to send a delegation of their too conservative statesmen to Oregon to see how the direct legislation machine runs under high pressure. They would learn a thing or two.

Yet it is well enough to hear what a mere scholar and a thinker like Professor Ford has to say. It only emphasizes the merit of the greatest achievement in direct legislation we in Oregon have wrought when all others who have tried to run a state by abandoning representative government have failed.

SPITZENBURG OR SPITZENBERG?.

Should the last syllable of Oregon's favorite apple be spelled with an "e" or a "u"? While The Oregonian is unable to make a definite decision, it leans toward Spitzenburg. This disputed spelling came up during the recent apple show, and The Oregonian was appealed to for a ruling. The most careful pomological publications in Oregon use "e." Several Eastern catalogues always print it with "u." For further light on the subject, The Oregonian addressed the Department of Agriculture at Washington asking particularly whether there was weight of authority for either spelling. This answer came:

> It is rather difficult to say whether the correct spelling of the apple in question is Spitzenburg or Spitzenberg, as there does not appear to be any well authentic history of the origin of this variety. In the older pomological publications the form of spelling appears to be pretty nearly equally divided. In some cases it is spelled Spitzenburgh. However, the form which appears to have the most general approval is Spitzenburg.
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> In this connection it may not be inconsistent for me to call your attention to the fact that the name "Esopus" is the accredited name for this variety, in accordance with the rules of nomenclature adopted by the American Pomological Society, and these are the rules which largely govern the use of varietal names at the present time.
>
> In the Northwest the name which is almost invariably used is Spitzenburg, while in the older fruit growing sections of the country where this variety is grown it is more commonly referred to by the name "Esopus." Not infrequently the two names are used in combination.

In the interests of uniformity, Oregon should adopt one or the other spelling. It is The Oregonian's rule to follow the nomenclature that the Government employs. While the Agriculture Department is not positive, it favors "u." So far as Oregon is concerned, the State Horticultural Society at its next meeting could declare which of the two vowels whose sounds are identical should be used.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

According to tradition—original date lost in obscurity—every one who measures years by the Gregorian calendar opens his book of life today at a clean, blank page. He begins to fill it out not with words, but conduct. This is the day when, influenced by the emotions it arouses, and perhaps conscience-stung over excesses of the previous night, a man highly resolves that forever after he will do this and refrain from doing that.

Among one class of citizens January first is the only day for climbing on the water wagon and for promising never to buy an unnecessary thing on credit; also for cutting out tobacco in every form. Backsliding begins sometimes as early as January 2, though authentic instances can be cited proving that weak sinners have held out until the 15th.

Has any man genuinely reformed himself by making resolutions on the first of the year merely because it is the fashion on that day to "swear off"? Isn't it true that, stimulated by the atmosphere of the day, a man given to vices great or small promises more than he is able to perform? When he fails in his performance he loses his most valuable asset—his self-confidence, and with it much of his self-respect. In the struggle toward a higher manhood one failure or a dozen should not deter the weakling from renewed effort. Continuous fight to lop off vices is always worth while. So long as the erring brother has the vitality to make the effort, so long is there hope.

But it is not the wisest thing to limit the time for entering into an ethical contract with yourself or with your friend to a certain historic day which custom has fixed for initiating personal reform. Resolve on a cleaner life, not because a multitude of others are doing it, but because you feel the need of it yourself. Any other day is quite as good as New Year's. Character has been defined as a bundle of habits. Discard the bad habits; save the good. Don't confine yourself to New Year's day. Renew your resolutions every morning if need be, until the habit of doing the clean thing throughout the day becomes fixed. Then there will be no use for New Year resolutions.

PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORM.

School factions in Portland are wrangling over control of the city's public education. But more important to taxpayers is the question to what length and breadth the public school system shall be expanded.

All manner of things are demanded of the school system, in addition to rudimentary education. Clamor goes up all the time for more departments. Girls must be taught by publicly-hired teachers, instead of by their mothers, to sew and to cook. Boys must be taught by publicly-hired instructors to ply "trades." School buildings must be built "fireproof," although children live and sleep safely in wooden structures. Costly plumbing must be provided, although many parents do not equip homes with facilities nearly so good.

The district is even urged to supply bathtubs, wherein children may be scrubbed by teachers when they come from home unclean. Clamor goes up for kindergartens, preliminary to primary grades, so that parents may be spared still earlier of family cares. Demand even is made for "free" dentistry also for free books. It is but a short step to free luncheons, free rubber overshoes, and free underwear. Children need all these things, and in the socialist lingo should not go in want of them just because parents are too poor to provide.

Complaint is made about the greatly increased cost of the school "machine." "Insurgents" enter the "taxpayers" meeting armed with "figures." They lose the meeting and cry out that it is "packed." Then they go off and hold a meeting of their own. But they offer no solution of the difficulty. They suggest no method of checking the "free" growth of the extravagant school system.

The reform that can do property owners and taxpayers benefit would be one to compel parents to perform duties toward their children that they are now successful in sloughing off on government. If reformers would use the cudgel to this end, they would win the approval of a suffering body of taxpayers and independent parents.

THE OREGON ST. GEORGE.

It may now be reasoned out by anybody of logical turn of mind why Oregon's senior Senator did not exert himself to prevent the disastrous loss of Oregon's opportunity of getting its just share of the $20,000,000 reclamation fund.

Our own Jonathan Bourne, Jr., was too busy. He was engaged in more important occupations. Instead of worrying over the trivial affairs of his state he was planning and building a bulwark against economic and social disaster throughout the Nation. This was an important undertaking for one man, although a member of the United States Senate, but the Oregon St. George did not hesitate, falter or delay. He rode fearlessly and confidently to meet the Deadly Dragon of National Despair and valiantly slew the beast alone and single-handed. Does a man engaged in such tremendous undertakings for the general weal have time to look after the paltry interests of a single state far out in the Pacific Northwest? We trow not.

We read of the brilliant achievement of the Oregon Senator in his own writings in the Saturday Evening Post. It is one of those modestly prepared articles whose full import can best be absorbed through a careful process of condensation. We learn: "I have long believed that satisfactory government cannot be attained without destroying the obligation that must exist between public officials and individuals securing their nomination"; "I delivered an address to the people of Oregon" on this subject; "I caused a bill to be prepared and submitted to the people of Oregon . . . providing . . . that opportunity should be given the voters to express their preference for party candidates for President and Vice-President"; that "My own judgment is that if the vote of Oregon shows a decisive preference for any aspirant, that aspirant (for President) will be nominated by the (National) convention."

There is also a prophecy that the majority of the states will adopt the same plan within two decades, but mark you, the great result will be so long deferred. Oregon's choice is to be the Nation's choice. But that is largely a matter of pride for Oregon, for here is the real good that is to be accomplished for the Nation, as seen by Mr. Bourne:

> For a considerable period before and after every Presidential election industrial activity lessens and there is enormous economic waste through idleness of men, machinery and capital. Practically all this waste would be saved under a system of popular selection, for it would be known in advance that the people would select the man in whom they had the most confidence; and, assured of this confidence, industrial enterprise would proceed with little if any interruption.

There we have it. Oregon will express its preference for Presidential candidates; the National Conventions will bow to popular will as expressed by the only state where the steam roller is out of commission; the people will be jubilantly confident and the buzzing of the wheels of industry will drown the dying wails of the political bosses.

Bourne will have done it all. Doesn't he say so? What does the loss of a few millions for irrigation amount to in the face of this victory over the Doleful Demon that infests the entrance of all political conventions? What are Umatilla, Klamath or Malheur, that they should demand the attention of a master mind absorbed with National problems? Why should Oregon mourn the loss of a hundred thousand prospective settlers when naming of Presidents and forestalling of National depression have been made as easy as shooting flying fish?

Long live St. George! Death to more dragons!

PENSIONS AND ARMY COST.

Comparison of American cost of war pensions with European cost of armies startles many peace-loving folk in this country. But the comparison is bootless; also harmless.

The American people willingly support a standing army of old-soldier and widow pensioners, but steadfastly refuse to support a standing army of gun-bearing soldiers and gold-braided Generals and Colonels. The people evidently think that men who would make good soldiers and commanders in time of war would make better hewers of wood and drawers of water in time of peace.

Here is the United States disbursing for pensions every two years enough money to build the Panama Canal or to launch nearly a score of Dreadnoughts. The year's pension budget, now approximating $175,000,000, falls only $50,000,000 short of the cost of the Kaiser's or the Czar's army. It is an excessive expenditure, made so largely by unthinking sentimentalism and political demagogism. But the American people will not be influenced to make it smaller by comparison with war-lord expenditures of other countries.

However, it is undeniable that the United States must spend growing sums for military and naval purposes, especially for coast fortifications and warships and maintenance of forces to man both. The frontiers of this country and its possessions in Panama and in its insular possessions must be fitly defended. But this does not mean that our Government will keep a large standing Army as nations do in Europe.

Extravagant pensions in this country will not be viewed by the public as an argument either for or against military appropriations, nor will their resemblance in totals of cost of big military camps in the Old World effect their reduction. In the United States the question of pensions is regarded as an economic and sentimental one, independent of military considerations.

THE ADVANCING WORLD.

It is a seemly exercise for New Year's day to sit down and reckon up the progress the world has been making within our recollection. One twelvemonth is hardly long enough to show the real tendencies of the times, however. We must look back over ten years or such a matter in order to obtain a true idea of the way things are moving and the advances that have been made. The normal American is convinced that progress is the law of the world. It is the fundamental article of his faith, but oftentimes his notions of progress are a little vague. He could not specify exactly how conditions were being bettered or by what agencies the results he rejoices in had been accomplished. The World's Work magazine has therefore done the country an intellectual service by specifying definitely the lines along which we have been moving most decidedly for the last decade. It mentions health, education and organization. Perhaps it might be well to add another to these three, namely, thrift. We mean that species of thrift which consists in eliminating waste of energy and material.

We doubt if the human race has made progress in any other direction more rapidly of late years than in this one. It has been accomplished by what is called sometimes the systematization of industry, and this again is the product of patient study. Bricklaying has been cited now and then as an example of the wonders which can be wrought by patient application of intelligence to an industrial problem. The trade is as ancient as the desire of man for shelter, and one would have supposed that the best way of taking up a brick, daubing it with mortar and laying it in place had been thought out ages ago. The truth is, however, that no thought had been applied to the affair. It all seemed so simple that nobody deemed it worth studying until our modern systematizer appeared on the scene. Applying a critical eye to the bricklayer's motions as he applied his trade, the systematizer made up his mind that more than half of them were sheer waste. The waste had been going on ever since Sargon built his palace in Mesopotamia. Think what it had cost the world. By cutting out the useless motions of the laborer it has been found possible to double or treble the tale of bricks which one man can lay in eight hours without "speeding up" at all or imposing hardship on anybody. The increased product is clear gain, and it is effected by the application of intelligence to an old problem.

The same thing has been done in stores, especially in department stores. Nowhere else has the elimination of waste and the consequent saving to buyers and sellers been greater than in these wonderful creations of organized and sane intelligence. The systematization of the world's work has given rise to a new profession which the reader has no doubt seen advertised in the magazines with increasing frequency. It is the profession of the man who will take hold of a business and standardize it in every department, cutting out the last vestige of waste and establishing efficiency everywhere.

Mr. Brandeis asserts that a considerable saving might be made in railroad expenses if this process were rigorously applied to that business. Certainly it has worked wonders almost everywhere else. Of course the public business will be the last to benefit by the new ideas of systematization, but it is to Mr. Taft's credit that he has learned what they are and is seeking to put them in practice in the Federal offices. The parcels post, by bringing producer and consumer together, would eliminate perhaps the most ruinous source of waste in our American life. It would be a long step toward the systematization of that vast business which consists in the purchase and consumption of food and which is now a wasteful chaos.

So far as health is concerned, we learn from one of Dr. Woods Hutchinson's lively articles that perhaps the most progress has been made in the fight against tuberculosis. This preventable and curable disease still slays its tens of thousands annually in America and elsewhere, but its prestige has been destroyed. People no longer look upon it as an invincible foe. A little common sense and kindliness will put it to rout. When we can permit every human being to have his rightful share of fresh air and sunshine there will be no more deaths from consumption. It is not propagated by tainted milk or by meat, but by darkness and foul air. The sleeping porch is one of the best weapons in the world to combat tuberculosis with, but how shall we give every woman and her babies a sleeping porch? The problem deserves some reflection. Dr. Hutchinson rejoices in the effectiveness of the new tests for consumption and syphilis, by which these terrible maladies can be detected in their earliest stages and promptly met with remedies.

No doubt Dr. Paul Ehrlich's infallible cure for syphilis, discovered through vivisection, is one of the greatest boons ever bestowed upon mankind. It renews the hope of permanency for civilization and frees the innocent from a haunting and invisible foe. Shoulder to shoulder with the men fighting disease the champions of education have marched. Education does not mean the same thing to us as it did ten years ago. Then it signified the acquisition of more or less useful facts, some of which were sure to lie as rubbish in the brain. Now education means efficiency, the power to do or be something. We do not call a person educated any more unless he shows capacity of some kind as the product of his schooling. The old-fashioned curriculum, which accomplished nothing better than ornamentation of the mind, is giving way, albeit reluctantly, to the democratic idea of efficiency. We are striving for a world where everybody shall contribute his share to the common good. In the hive of the future there will be few drones, and it is the public school which will eliminate them.

If organization proceeds slowly among our farmers, where it is most needed, it is not standing still. New ideas are put forth every day and they make converts. The tillers of the soil are forsaking their old and ruinous individualism and drawing together for instruction, for production and for marketing. They are learning, too, the immense power of combined effort in politics. The world looks bright to the student of human affairs. The word of the future is hope, and foundation of hope is all-conquering intelligence.

SUNDAY AND SABBATH.

Fears are expressed by Seventh Day Adventists that a bill for a "strict Sunday law" may be seriously considered by the Oregon Legislature this Winter. But it is not likely that such a law will be enacted; ecclesiastical restrictions upon personal freedom on the first day of the week are not accepted in American communities, nor in European, either. Seventh Day Adventists are but a small part of the citizenship that would resent attempts to turn the first day of the week into the old Hebrew Sabbath (Saturday) or into the stringent Puritan Sabbath (Sunday).

Mr. W. F. Martin, an able leader of this sect, and secretary of what is called the "Religious Liberty Bureau," took important part two years ago, in defeating the "Sunday bill." His historical explanation of the old Hebrew and the later Christian Sabbaths knocked the props from under the advocates of the bill, who were urging its passage for so-called religious reasons. Mr. Martin's letter contains this paragraph:

> I am a Christian, but I do not believe in enforcing Christian dogmas by law. Plans are on foot already to induce the coming Legislature to pass a Sunday law, and I trust, as a man to whom your fellow-men have entrusted grave responsibilities, you will not yield to any pressure brought to bear to induce you to depart from the grand principles of civil and religious liberty which have made our Nation great.

American public opinion believes in decent recreation and pleasures on Sunday. It doesn't approve making Sunday a Sabbath like that of the Hebrews, on which day the individual was restrained from nearly every avocation by superstitious and ecclesiastical ordinances, against which Jesus rebelled; or like that of the Puritans, a day of seclusion and of solemn and morbid denial of recreation and pleasure.

Most citizens of this country and of Oregon believe that Sunday may properly be used for wholesome relaxation from tasks of the week and for enjoyment of decent pleasures. They see no wrong in such actions on the first day of the week nor do they regard them inconsistent with churchgoing earlier or later in the day, or with strict religious observance by all who are so minded. This does not make the people irreligious or irreverant; there are more moral, upright, temperate, honest, pure-minded charitable men and women in this country than ever before. Healthful observance of Sunday has aided them in rising to a high level of religious and social tolerance. This is too enlightened an age for intolerant and dogmatic demand for hide-bound observance of Sunday.

Mr. Martin and his followers are secure in their claims for religious freedom as to choice of their day of worship or as to use of the first day of the week. Custom makes Sunday a day of rest and quiet pleasure as well as of religious observance. This custom is firmly rooted in the character of the people and in their system of weekly business and labor.

PASSING OF THE BABY.

Statisticians, heretofore, have taken pencil in hand and figured out a portentous future for world or nation, but nothing more astonishing has ever been predicted by using the "exact science" than the prophecy of Professor Walter F. Wilcox.

This statistician of Cornell, we learn, has reduced race suicide to mathematical precision and has demonstrated by figures that babies will disappear from this country in 2015. The date is so far in the future that manufacturers of go-carts and prepared foods for infants need not begin retrenchment at once, even if it is accepted that no collateral factors or conditions will upset the calculations. Figures are interesting things. By using percentages and assuming that ratios of increase and decrease will be maintained for a given number of years, things pleasurable as well as deplorable may be placed among the probabilities of the future. We have known socialists who by comparison of votes cast for their party candidates in two or three successive elections could tell positively in just what year the party would be in government control. On the same basis of calculation we may plan in Portland for a city larger than New York before the expiration of forty years; we may also expect the abandonment of Iowa and the shifting of centers of wealth and population from east to west before the stork ceases to call on Uncle Sam. On the other hand, mathematical calculations founded on the relative increases in wages and cost of living tell us that at some future time the Nation's workingmen will be starving to death. Yet we are not happily excited nor profoundly alarmed.

And, speaking of cost of living, is there not some relation between that and the recent reduction in the baby supply? Who has not heard a friend or neighbor say, "I would love to have a large family of children if I thought I could give them the proper comforts and education"? Cost of living does influence the birth rate, even though it be granted there is a note of selfishness in the foregoing remark and that many of us who are childless are unwilling to surrender present comforts, luxuries or pleasures for the unknown delights of fatherhood or motherhood.

But to say or intimate that the decrease in the birth rate will be maintained along past percentages is to say that Americans will never cease their frantic pursuit of the dollar or refrain from "living high." Dread infantile paralysis has shown dire strides in the past decade. As well predict from this the supersedure of American strength and manhood by a nation of cripples as foretell by mathematical calculations the disappearance of babies 100 or 1000 years hence.

New York also had a Christmas swim—not like the one in Portland, however, where thirty-three started and thirty-two finished the course. It is told in the New York World that William Quince, a cooper, bet $10 that he could swim the East River. One minute after he struck the water he began calling for help. Three companions slid down a hawser and finally pulled him out unconscious. All three rescuers required hospital attendance as the result of the splashing they received, although they were not submerged, and at last accounts Quince's life was not out of danger. Comparison of results in the New York and Portland events speaks as emphatically of the contrast between Far Eastern and Far Western climates as do the stories of roses blooming in Portland, when New York is snowbound. Not yet is Portland widely known as a Winter resort. Climate is looked upon more as an asset in attracting permanent residents. Yet the Christmas swim in the Willamette is an annual event, and men and women enjoy December plunges into the ocean surf at nearby beach resorts.

The story of fighting typhoid fever at Eugene has been long drawn out. It has been running through the news items of the press, with occasional intermission for more than five years. Boiled water has been prescribed again and again as a preventive measure. It is full time that a pure water supply were furnished that city. A filter plant is, we are told, being installed that will shut out the typhoid germs that creep into the water pipes of Eugene from the sewers of Cottage Grove and Springfield, that disgorge into the river for miles above. Of course this is better than contaminated water unfiltered, but it can hardly be construed into pure water. In the meantime, while the filter plant is being installed the necessity of boiling all water used for domestic purposes and doubly boiling all drinking water is being urged. The need is pressing, as shown by forty to fifty cases of typhoid fever now in the city.

The Civic Union, it appears, planned to pack that school meeting by publicly calling on every sympathizer to attend. Many sympathizers attended, indeed, but their sympathies were mostly with the School Board. In other words, the meeting was packed, but not by the original would-be packers. The other side has had long experience at the game. The Civic Union ought to know what always happens in cases of that kind. It knows now.

Not only from the prophylactic point of view are paper towels advisable, but also on the economical side. They cost less than laundering linen towels. They have been adopted by state institutions as well as by the schools of Topeka, Kan. Two paper towels are used at each ablution; one for absorbing the water like a blotter, the other for completing the drying of the hands.

Among the "curious records of 1910" is mentioned the "Dancing Marathon," wherein in San Francisco last March six couples waltzed, unceasingly, for fourteen hours and forty-one minutes. The utter uselessness of such a test of physical endurance as this robs its participants of all legitimate claim upon public interest.

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, superintendent of schools in Chicago, has had her turn at marriage. To those who would discuss the subject of matrimony with her upon individual terms she responds tersly and conclusively "let us call this matter dead."

Perhaps the fashionable New York preacher who got rich quick by the death of his multi-millionaire sister ought to be excused for reckless motoring. Excessive speed and suddenly acquired wealth seem to be indissoluble.

President Hask intends, so we hear, to "place on the committee to investigate school affairs competent business men whose reports will carry weight." Then the Civic Union will begin to be taken seriously.

That Cornell highbrow who declares there will be no more babies in the United States 100 years from now ought to be glad we have no law for punishing such display of pessimism.

Well, it's too bad Oak Park beat us, but there's consolation in the thought that Washington High knows the game. Illinois taught nothing new out here.

Naturally Mrs. Longworth wants to get that party gown back. The absence of her gown at the Taft reception would doubtless be noticed.

When the man from Missouri makes his traditional demand, show him that Portland bank clearings gained every week during the year 1910.

Aviation? Gravitation is better.

The same to you.

NEW YEAR VERSE

Ring Out, Wild Bells.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night,
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out foul shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old;
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—Tennyson.

Address to the New Year.

Friend, come thou like a friend,
And, whether bright thy face,
Or dim with clouds we cannot comprehend,
We'll hold our patient hands, each in his place,
And trust each to the end,
Knowing thou leadest onward to those spheres
Where there are neither days nor months nor years.

—Selected.

An Irrigation Ode.

How well do I remember about last New Year's—
A season of much mingled thirst and sorrow—
I swore off for one twelvemonth and one day,
(Spoken with feeling.) Well, the time expires tomorrow!

—J. P. Meikle.

Dirge for the Year.

Orphan hours, the year is dead,
Come and sigh, come and weep.
Merry hours, smile instead,
For the year is but asleep;
See, it smiles as it is sleeping,
Mocking your untimely weeping.

As the wild air stirs and sways
The tree-swung cradle of a child,
So the breath of these rude days
Rocks the year; be calm and mild,
Trembling hours; she will arise
With new love within her eyes.

January gray is here,
Like a sexton by her grave;
February bears the bier,
March with grief doth howl and rave,
And April weeps,—but, O! ye hours
Follow with May's fairest flowers.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley.

The Old Year.

Wail, Winter winds, o'er moor and fell;
The year is dying; Hark, the bell
Rings out amid the falling snow:
"Good-bye, old friend, for thou must go,
Good-bye, old year."

But soft, thy heart beats faint and slow;
Thine eyes are dim, thy pulse is low;
One parting glance; thy life is o'er,
The New Year stands within the door,
Good-bye, old year.

—Violet Fuller.

New Year's Resolve.

As the dead year is clasped by a dead December,
So let your dead sins with your dead days lie.
A new life is yours, and a new hope. Remember
We build our own ladders to climb to the sky.

Stand out in the sunlight of promise, forgetting
Whatever your past held of sorrow or wrong;
We waste half our strength in a useless regretting;
We sit by old tombs in the dark too long.

I tell you,—the future can hold no terrors
For any sad soul while the stars revolve,
If he will but stand firm on the grave of his errors,
And instead of regretting, resolve, resolve.

It is never too late to begin rebuilding,
Though all into ruins your life seems hurled;
For look, how the light of the New Year is gliding
The worn, wan face of the bruised old world.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

It Made 'Em "T. ke Notice," All Right

Boston Evening Transcript.

The pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Vinton, Ia., is undoubtedly as wise as a serpent, though there seems to be a growing doubt on the part of the people who have doorbells to answer whether the children of that community are harmless as doves. "Next Sunday will be nonchurchgoers' day," the minister announced. "While this invitation is especially for the nonchurchgoers and occasional church attendants, a most cordial invitation is extended to all. Five dollars reward," he added, "will be given to the person reading the above notice to the most people during the week prior to said service." Upon this provocation all the boys and girls who were able to read set out to exercise their accomplishment in the interest of the church, collecting signatures to prove that they had done so. Before the week was out everybody heard of the service. Many a citizen felt as though he had heard of nothing else.

Relics In Dispute.

London Globe.

An incident at Milan recalls the story of the attorney, the disputants and the oyster, that is, if we can compare things sacred with things profane. There are two churches there—St. Vitale and St. Ambrogio—each claiming to possess in its crypt the remains of St. Satiro. This dispute between the two churches waxed so hot that the Holy See had to intervene. A commission was appointed to investigate the rival claims, and ten years have been spent on the inquiry. The commission has decided that the true bones of St. Satiro repose in the church of St. Vitale. But this decision made matters worse, so the Pope has ordered that the bones from each of the churches shall be placed in the same tomb in the cathedral, and there henceforth the faithful factions will venerate the relics.

Beef Baron Indictments.

Chicago News.

Packers have to cut notches in a stick to keep count of their indictments.